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PREFACE

The purpose of a formal grammar is to provide the student with a general survey of the structure of the language, and to serve him as a work of reference, in which he can find the solutions of difficulties he may meet in his studies, and to which he can resort for grammatical points.

GRAMMAR

by

S. P. E. BOSHOF, M.A., D.Litt. et Phil.

The index at the end will be found most useful, as will also the appendix, which contains a list of verbs in alphabetical order showing strong and weak forms. The attention of the student is particularly directed to Chapters 10, 11 and 12, the last named dealing with the division of words into syllables, an important subject for the serious student, but only too rarely dealt with in books of this kind.

by ധരനസല

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PREFACE

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The Linguaphone Afrikaans Grammar was compiled with that purpose in view, and was specially designed for the use of students of the Linguaphone Afrikaans Course : it is clear, concise and comprehensive, and contains a wealth of up-to-date examples arranged in an original manner and comprising in themselves a guide to modern colloquial Afrikaans.

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CHAPTER I

THE ARTICLE

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(c) before *meeste* (Eng. *most*—used as pronoun and adverb) and always before predicative and adverbial superlatives, even where it can be omitted in English.

Examples :

Die meeste mense hou daarvan, Most people like it.
 Die klimaat is die aangenaamste in die lente, The climate is most pleasant in spring.
 Ek hou hiervan die meeste, I like this (the) best.
 Dit is presies wat ek die meeste nodig het, This is precisely what I require most.
 Dit is die interessantste boek wat ek gelees het, This book is the most interesting I've read.

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CHAPTER 1

THE ARTICLE

1. The Definite Article.

In Afrikaans the definite article (Eng. *the*) is **die** wherever it occurs before nouns (singular or plural), as Afrikaans (like English) does not distinguish what is generally known as "grammatical gender".

Examples :

die boek, the book

die boeke, the books

die huis, the house

die huise, the houses

die tafel, the table

die tafels, the tables

For the continued use of the otherwise obsolete forms **de**, **der**, **des**, and **'t** (Dutch *het*) in certain standard phrases see §10.

2. Use of the Definite Article.

The definite article is generally used in Afrikaans where it is used in English. It is, however, also used in Afrikaans in some cases where it is not, or need not be, used in English, e.g.:

- as a rule before the names of the seasons : **in die herfs**, in (the) autumn ; **in die lente**, in (the) spring ; **in die somer**, in (the) summer ; **in die winter**, in (the) winter ;
- frequently before nouns denoting subjects of study : **die Biologie**, biology ; **die digkuns**, poetry ; **die letterkunde**, literature ; **die Natuurkunde**, physics ; **die Skeikunde**, chemistry ; **die Wiskunde**, mathematics ;
- before **meeste** (Eng. *most*—used as pronoun and adverb) and always before predicative and adverbial superlatives, even where it can be omitted in English.
Examples :

Die meeste mense hou daarvan, Most people like it.

Die klimaat is die aangenaamste in die lente, The climate is most pleasant in spring.

Ek hou hiervan die meeste, I like this (the) best.

Dit is presies wat ek die meeste nodig het, This is precisely what I require most.

Dit is die interessantste boek wat ek gelees het, This book is the most interesting I've read.

- (d) sometimes instead of the English possessive pronoun before names of parts of the body, articles of clothing, etc.
Examples :

Hy het met die hoed op die kop gestaan, He stood with his hat on his head.

Hy loop met die hande in die sakke, He is walking with his hands in his pockets ;

- (e) generally (but not invariably) before certain nouns of a general nature, e.g.: **die koors**, fever ; **die lewe**, life ; **die mens**, man ; **die natuur**, nature.

3. The Indefinite Article.

The indefinite article (Eng. *a*, *an*) is 'n (Dutch *een*). It has no plural.

4. Use of the Indefinite Article.

The indefinite article (like the definite article) is generally used in Afrikaans where it is used in English. It may, however, be omitted before a noun indicating profession, rank, etc.

Examples :

Hy is boer van beroep, He is a farmer by profession.

Hy het offisier geword, He became an officer.

This usage is not very rigid and in any case the article is not omitted if the noun is qualified by an adjective, e.g.: **Hy is 'n vooruitstrewende boer**, He is a progressive farmer.

CHAPTER 2

NOUNS

5. Gender.

Afrikaans (like English) indicates differences of "natural sex" (male—female), where it may be necessary to do so, by means of different words, e.g.: **man**, man, husband—**vrou**, woman, wife ; **seun**, son—**dogter**, daughter, etc., or by means of different suffixes, e.g. **digter**, poet ; **digteres**, poetess ; **god**, god ; **godin**, goddess, etc., but (again like English) it does not distinguish so-called "grammatical gender" (masculine—feminine). (See Chapter 11 on WORD FORMATION).

6. Compound Nouns.

Although there are thousands of compound nouns in English, the first noun being used adjectivally to qualify the second, as in *foot-path*, *staircase*, etc., there are probably more such combinations that are treated as two separate words, as in *animal lover*, *city wall*, *school term*, etc. In Afrikaans (as in Dutch and German) the tendency to treat all such combinations as compound nouns and to write them as one word is much stronger than in English. The equivalents of *animal lover*, etc., would be **diereliefhebber** or **dierevriend**, **stadsmuur**, **skoolkwartaal**. (See Chapter 11 on WORD FORMATION).

7. Number.

Most Afrikaans nouns form their plural either in *-e* or in *-s* (the *-s* being voiceless, i.e., like Eng. *s* in *son*, not as in *has*) ; some have both endings (often with a difference of meaning) and some few form their plural in *-ers* (with rare variants in *-ere*).

(a) Plurals in *-e*.

- (i) The plurals of monosyllables normally end in *-e*, e.g.:

kat , cat	katte , cats	wrak , wreck	wrakke , wrecks
bed , bed	bedde , beds	net , net	nette , nets
vin , fin	vinne , fins	vis , fish	visse , fishes
pot , pot	potte , pots	stok , stick	stokke , sticks
hut , hut	hutte , huts	kus , kiss	kusse , kisses.

Note that in all the examples above the final consonant (preceded by a short vowel) is doubled before the plural ending *-e*, but that this does not happen after *ie* and *oe* (although they are really short vowels and not diphthongs), hence :

riet , reed	riete , reeds	wiel , wheel	wiele , wheels
boek , book	boeke , books	hoed , hat	hoede , hats.

A final consonant, preceded by a long vowel, is not doubled in the plural, but the vowel being now in an open syllable* is written as a single vowel, e.g.:

laan , lane	lane , lanes	been , bone	bene , bones
soom , seam	some , seams	uur , hour	ure , hours.

In this connection diphthongs count as long vowels, hence :

eik , oak	eike , oaks	feit , fact	feite , facts
huis , house	huise , houses	muis , mouse	muise , mice.

- (ii) In a number of cases the short vowel of the singular is lengthened in the plural, this vowel and the final consonant being treated as in **lane**, **bene**, **some**, **ure** above, e.g. :

gat , hole	gate , holes	spel , game	spele , games.
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- (iii) Vowel lengthening, similar to that in the foregoing, is sometimes accompanied by dropping of the final **g** of the singular in the plural, e.g.:

dag , day— dae , days ;	slag , blow— slae , blows ;	vlag , flag— vlae , flags.
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- (iv) Final consonants that in the process of derivation have been dropped in the singular may re-emerge before the plural ending **-e**, e.g.:

nag (Dutch <i>nacht</i>), night — nagte , nights
krag (Dutch <i>kracht</i>), power — kragte , powers
vrag (Dutch <i>vracht</i>), load — vragte , loads
reg (Dutch <i>recht</i>), right — regte , rights
lig (Dutch <i>licht</i>), light — ligte , lights
tog (Dutch <i>tocht</i>), trip — togte , trips
vrug (Dutch <i>vrucht</i>), fruit — vrugte , fruits.

- (v) Diaeresis on the second of two vowels in juxtaposition indicates that the vowels do not represent one sound, e.g.:

boog , bow	boë , bows	fee , fairy	feë , fairies
oog , eye	oë , eyes	see , sea	seë , seas
slee , sleigh	sleë , sleighs	wee , woe	weë , woes.

Note that diaeresis is omitted in the vowel sequence **ae** as in **dae**, **slae**, **vlae** (see §(a)(iii) above).

* *Open syllable* = one ending in a vowel : e.g. **la-ne**, as opposed to a *closed syllable* = one ending in a consonant, e.g. **kat-te**.

- (vi) Diaeresis is also omitted on the plural ending **-e** following on a diphthong, hence :

koei , cow	koeie , cows	ooi , ewe	ooie , ewes
trui , jersey	truie , jerseys	ui , onion	uie , onions
vallei , valley	valleie , valleys	vlooi , flea	vloolie , fleas.

- (vii) Final voiceless **f** (usually preceded by a vowel, a diphthong, **l** or **r**) becomes voiced **w** (i.e. Eng. *v*) before the plural ending **-e** (the **w** being written double after a short vowel).

Examples :

brief , letter	briewe , letters	drif , ford	driwwe , fords
druif , grape	druie , grapes	golf , wave	golwe , waves
korf , basket	korwe , baskets	raaf , raven	rawe , ravens
stof , material	stowwe , materials	werf , farm-yard	werwe , farm-yards
stoof , stove	stowe , stoves	wolf , wolf	wolwe , wolves.

- (viii) The plurals of compound nouns are generally determined by the plural forms of the second members of such compounds, hence **dierevriend**, animal lover—**dierevriende**, animal lovers ; **stadsmuur**, city wall—**stadsmure**, city walls ; **skoolkwartaal**, school term—**skoolkwartale**, school terms (see §6).

But compounds in **-man** denoting an occupation or a trade have plurals in **-manne**, **-mense**, **-liede**, or **-lui**, e.g. :

werksman, workman—**werksmanne**, **werksmense**, **werksliede** or **werkslui**, workmen.

When such compounds, however, denote nationality the inflected forms of the uncompounded adjectives are used in the plural, e.g. : **Engelsman**, Englishman—**Engelse**, Englishmen ; **Fransman**, Frenchman—**Franse**, Frenchmen.

- (ix) Whether the plural ending is to be **-e** or **-s** in the case of dissyllabic, trisyllabic or polysyllabic derivative nouns depends primarily on the degree of stress on the derivative suffix concerned. Suffixes such as **-dom**, **-ling**, **-skap**, etc., are called "heavy" (i.e. with neither strong nor quite weak stress) and usually have the plural ending **-e**, hence :

eiendom , property	eiendomme , properties
swerweling , wanderer	swerwelinge , wanderers
landskap , landscape	landskappe , landscapes.

The suffix **-heid** belongs here, but in the plural its diphthong **ei** becomes a long vowel **e**, hence :

moeilikeid , difficulty	moeilikhede , difficulties
mooieid , beauty	mooihede , beauties.

- (x) There are a few plurals in **-e** which are more or less unusual in the sense that the original vowel is lengthened or modified or that the final consonant of the singular is changed in the intervocalic position of the plural.

Examples :

pad , path	paaie , paths	lid , member	lede , members
skip , ship	skepe , ships	stad , city	stede , cities.

(b) *Plurals in -s.*

- (i) There are some monosyllables that (contrary to the rule stated in §(a)(i) above) have a plural in **-s**.

Examples :

broer , brother	broers , brothers
leeu , lion	leeus , lions
neef , cousin, nephew	neefs , cousins, nephews
oom , uncle	ooms , uncles
seun , son	seuns , sons.

- (ii) Dissyllabic, trisyllabic, and polysyllabic derivative nouns ending in suffixes with a weak stress (see §(a)(ix) above) usually have the plural ending **-s**.

Examples :

arbeider(s), labourer(s) ; **besem(s)**, broom(s) ; **distel(s)**, thistle(s) ; **emosie(s)**, emotion(s) ; **geleier(s)**, conductor(s) ; **getuie(s)**, witness(es) ; **haring(s)**, herring(s) ; **kolonie(s)**, colony (colonies) ; **posisie(s)**, position(s) ; **tafel(s)**, table(s) ; **tante(s)**, aunt(s) ; **vinger(s)**, finger(s).

(For the sake of brevity the plurals are shown in brackets for Afrikaans and for English).

Nouns like **arm**, arm ; **derm**, intestine ; **halm**, stalk ; **skelm**, crook ; **skerm**, screen ; **swerm**, swarm ; **wurm**, worm, etc., all have **-s** plurals and are no exception to the rule regarding monosyllables inasmuch as they are all pronounced as dissyllables in Afrikaans.

- (iii) Nouns ending in **-i**, **-o**, **-u** have plurals in **-s** (written with the apostrophe before the **s** to avoid mispronunciation in cases where **-is**, **-os**, **-us** might suggest a short vowel).

Examples :

alibi ; alkali	alibi's ; alkali's
foto , photo ; piano	foto's ; piano's
balju , bailiff ; menu	balju's ; menu's.

- (iv) The foregoing rule applies with some modifications to nouns ending in **-a**.

Nouns with stressed **-a** at the end follow the rule.

Examples :

ma ; pa ; mama ; papa ;	ma's ; pa's ; mama's ; papa's ;
karba , carboy	karba's

Nouns with unstressed final **-a** (usually with penultimate stress) also have plurals in **-s**, but this is written without the apostrophe. (Note that double consonants in some of these forms point to differences of accentuation).

Examples :

padda , frog ; saga	paddas , sagas
mamma ; pappa	mammass ; pappass
ouma , grandmother ; oupa , grandfather	oumass ; oupas .

(c) *Plurals in -e and in -s.*

- (i) Some nouns belonging to this group are homonyms* or homophones† and others, although similar in spelling, are entirely different words with differences of accentuation (ultimate or penultimate stress, the stress being indicated here, although this is not done in the official orthography).

Examples :

maat , measurement	mate
maat , companion	maats (or maters)
saal , hall	sale
saal , saddle	saals
doktor , doctor of law, etc.	doktore
dokter , medical doctor	dokters
gesél , fellow	gesélle
gésel , lash	gésels .

- (ii) Derivative nouns in **-ing** fluctuate between plurals in **-e** and in **-s**, the latter apparently predominating in cases where the meaning is rather concrete and usage suggests a high frequency, e.g.: **samestelling**, compound—**samestellinge** or **samestellings** ; **vergadering**, meeting—**vergaderinge** or **vergaderings**.

(d) *Plurals in -ers (with variants in -ere).*

- (i) The following nouns have plurals in **-ers** : **kalf**, calf—**kalwers** ; **kind**, child—**kinders** ; **lam**, lamb—**lammers**.
- (ii) There are nouns with plurals in **-e**, **-s**, **-ers**, **-ere**, sometimes with slightly different shades of meaning.

* Words having the same spelling but differing in meaning.

† Words that sound the same but differ in spelling and meaning.

Examples :

been, bone or leg—**bene**, legs ; **bene** or **beendere**, bones
goed, stuff—**goedere**, goods ; or **goeters**, trash, vermin, etc.
klip, stone—**klippe**, stones ; or **klippers**, pebbles, etc.
maat, companion—**maats** or **maters** (more colloquial)
volk, nation—**volke** or **volkere** (no difference).

(iii) The following nouns have plurals in **-ere** : **gelid**, rank—**geledere**, ranks ; **gemoed**, mind—**gemoedere**, feelings ; **lied**, song—**liedere**.

(e) *Blendings.*

There are various blendings, some of them retaining vestiges of the older (Dutch) plurals in **-en**, e.g.: **bad**, bath—**badde** or **baddens** ; **bed**, bed—**bedde** or **beddens** ; **vul**, foal—**vulle** or **vullens** ; **wa**, wag(g)on—**waens**.

8. Use of singular and plural.

The use of singular and plural is on the whole similar in Afrikaans and English. Afrikaans (like Dutch) uses the singular of some nouns denoting weights, measures and values when a definite numeral or a word such as **paar** precedes.

Examples :

Die pad is tien tree (dertig voet) breed, The road is ten yards (thirty feet) wide.

Hy kan nie meer as 'n paar tree loop nie, He cannot walk more than a few yards (steps).

Die kind is tien jaar oud, The child is ten years old.

Ek het hom 'n paar jaar nie gesien nie, I have not seen him for several years.

Ek wil twee pond botter hê, I want two pounds of butter.

(**Twee ponde botter** would imply two separate lumps of butter each weighing a pound, whereas **twee pond** might be either a single lump or separate lumps).

Some English plurals are rendered by singulars in Afrikaans, e.g.:
'n bril, glasses or spectacles ; **'n broek**, trousers ; **'n skêr**, scissors.

The reverse is also true, e.g.:

harsings, brain ; **medisyne**, medicine ; **semels**, bran.

9. Case.

Afrikaans nouns have no case-forms except some survivals in current formulas, traditional expressions, phrases, proverbs, etc. (see §10). The weakly stressed possessive pronoun **se** after the noun is (like the colloquial Dutch *z'n*) an equivalent to the English possessive case.

Examples :

Dit is pa se hoed, This is father's hat.

Nee, dit is Jan se hoed, No, this is John's hat.

This possessive pronoun **se** (which in its Dutch form *z'n* was originally applicable to male beings only) is also used in Afrikaans after the names of female beings, e.g.:

Dit is ma se hoed, This is mother's hat.

Nee, dit is Marie se hoed, No, it is Mary's hat.

Instead of **se** after the names of females **haar** may be heard, e.g.:

Dit is ma haar hoed, "This is mother's hat," but this usage is archaic.

This possessive **se** is also used after interrogative pronouns, e.g.:

Wie se goed is dit?, Whose property is this?

Wat se goed is dit?, What (kind of) stuff is this?

Afrikaans **s'n** (Dutch *z'n*) preceded by a noun or pronoun may be regarded as the possessive case of a substantive used as a predicative adjective, e.g.:

Dit is pa s'n, This is father's ; **Dit is Jan s'n**, This is John's ;

Dit is ons s'n, This is ours.

Instead of saying : **Dit is pa se hoed** (see above), we might say : **Dit is die hoed van pa**. But this sounds bookish in Afrikaans and is a prepositional construction that has nothing to do with case as such.

10. Old Case Forms.

In the older (Dutch) stages of the development of the language genitive and dative cases were used, not only of nouns, but also of articles, pronominal adjectives and adjectives preceding nouns. Some of these old case forms have survived in more or less hackneyed phrases in Afrikaans.

Genitives.

Jy is 'n kind des doods, You're a dead man.

brood der smarte eet, to eat (the) bread of affliction

Datives.

ter dood veroordeel, to condemn to death

ter geleëner tyd, at the appropriate time

ter harte neem, to take to heart.

It is in such more or less stock phrases that archaic case forms, especially of the definite article and of certain pronouns like **der**, **des**, **'t** (the weakly stressed form of Dutch *het*) and **ter** (a telescoped form of **te** + **der**) have survived, e.g. :

Hy is aan 't ploeg, He is (busy) ploughing, etc.

11. Nouns used Adjectivally.

In Afrikaans nouns are not, as in English, used as attributive adjectives. Afrikaans uses instead adjectives formed from such nouns, compounds or prepositional constructions (usually with *van*).

Examples :

a London street, 'n **Londense straat**
mountain scenery, 'n **berglandskap**
the 1960 edition, **die uitgawe van 1960**.

Note the absence of an equivalent to the English *of* after nouns denoting number, measure, quantity, etc., in expressions like the following :

'n **koppie koffie**, a cup of coffee
'n **aantal mense**, a number of people
verskillende soorte vleis, various kinds of meat
duisende besoekers, thousands of visitors
'n **pond botter**, a pound of butter.

This construction (i.e. without an equivalent to the English *of*) also occurs in word groups such as :

die stad Londen, the city of London.
die eiland Capri, the isle of Capri, etc.

CHAPTER 3

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

12. Subject Pronouns.

	Singular	Plural
1st person	ek , I	ons , we
2nd person		
Familiar	jy , you	julle , you
Polite	u , you	u , you
3rd person		
Masculine	hy , he	hulle , they
Feminine	sy , she	
*Sexless	hy or dit , it	

* Sexless implies that the pronoun has reference to inanimate beings (in which case Afrikaans has no so-called "grammatical gender") or to animate beings whose sex is either unknown or does not matter at the moment (e.g. babies, insects, etc.). In this case Afrikaans differs from both Dutch and English in that things like *an engine*, *a motorcar*, *a ship* and concepts like *the government*, *the state*, *literature*, *nature*, etc., are not referred to by means of a feminine pronoun (Dutch : *zij* or *ze*; English : *she*), but by the sexless form *hy* (identical with the masculine pronoun) or *dit* (which is really a demonstrative pronoun).

Examples :

The boat is expected at sunrise, but *she* (or *it*) may be late, **Die boot word teen sonop verwag, maar hy (dit) is moontlik laat.**

Great Britain rejects the view that *she* should accept responsibility for this, **Groot-Brittanje verwerp die sienswyse dat hy (dit) verantwoordelikheid hiervoor moet aanvaar.**

Afrikaans has a stressed or an emphatic form of the subject pronoun (1st person), viz. **ekke**, e.g.: Who said so? **Wie het dit gesê? Ek**, I (did). **Wie? Ekke.** Who? I. (I'm telling you).

With regard to the second person, the familiar form **jy** (plural **julle**) is used in addressing one's equals and inferiors, and the polite form **u** in addressing the Deity in prayer (in which case the form is written with a capital letter), one's superiors and strangers. In addressing their parents, children repeat the noun referring to the person addressed, e.g.:

Mother, where are you going? **Ma, waarheen gaan ma?**

(But : Sir, where are you going? **Meneer, waarheen gaan u?**).

Note that in the plural Afrikaans has no separate subject forms, e.g. nothing corresponding to Dutch *wij* and English *we*, but uses **ons** for both subject (*we*) and object (*us*). Similarly, **hulle**, "they" and "them".

13. Object Pronouns.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
1st person	my, me	ons, us
2nd person		
Familiar	jou, you	julle, you
Polite	u, you	u, you
3rd person		
Masculine	hom, him	hulle, them
Feminine	haar, her	
Sexless	hom or dit, it	

The remarks applicable to the subject forms also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the object forms.

Note that the Afrikaans subject and object forms for all persons in the plural are identical. Whether a particular personal pronoun is actually a subject or an object form will invariably be clear from the context, e.g.:

Ons het **hulle** gesien, maar **hulle** het **ons** nie gesien nie, *We saw them, but they did not see us.*

Ek het **julle** gevolg toe **julle** die winkel binnegegaan het, *I followed you as you went into the shop.*

Afrikaans (like Dutch) avoids the preposition-pronoun construction **aan dit, deur dit, oor dit, op dit, van dit**, etc., and uses instead so-called "adverbial pronouns" **daaraan, daardeur, daaroor, daarop, daarvan**, etc. (compare English *thereby, thereupon, therewith*, etc.) except when human beings are referred to.

Examples :

The experience left its mark *on him*, **Die ervaring het sy stempel op hom afgedruk.**

He put a stamp *on it* (e.g. on an envelope), **Hy het 'n seël daarop gesit.**

The parts of compounds like **daaroor** may be separated, e.g.:

Daaroor kan ons praat or **Daar kan ons oor praat**, *We may talk about that.*

Note, too, that *I like it* is rendered by **Ek hou daarvan** and that one should always be prepared to expect differences of this nature.

One of these typical differences is the rendering of English *so* by Afrikaans **dit**.

Examples :

He said *so*, **Hy het dit gesê.**

They did *so*, **Hulle het dit gedoen.**

I thought *so*, **Ek het dit gedink.**

I hope *so*, **Ek hoop dit.**

14. Reflexive Pronouns.

The object forms of personal pronouns in Afrikaans are used as reflexive pronouns after reflexive verbs, i.e. verbs having the same persons or things as their subjects and their objects, e.g.:

Ek was my, *I'm washing myself.*

Jy was jou, *You're washing yourself.*

Note that English adds *-self* to the pronominal forms *my* and *your*, but that this is usually unnecessary in Afrikaans. But **Hy was hom** and **Sy was haar** may both be ambiguous inasmuch as these statements may imply either that *he/she* is washing *himself/herself* or some other person (male or female). As a rule the meaning will be clear from the context, but should there be any doubt, Afrikaans also adds *-self*, e.g.:

Hy was hom, *He's washing him* or : *He's washing (himself),* but **Hy was homself,** *He's washing himself.*

Sy was haar, *She's washing her* or : *She's washing (herself),* but **Sy was haarself,** *She's washing herself.*

In Afrikaans **self** is, therefore, only added to avoid ambiguity and omitted where no ambiguity is possible in the context.

On the other hand, **self** is often used in Afrikaans (but not usually compounded with another pronoun as in English) for the sake of emphasis.

Examples :

Ek sal dit self doen, *I'll do it myself.*

Jy het dit self gedoen, *You've done it yourself.*

My broer het dit self gesien, *My brother saw it himself.*

In English we may say of someone that he enjoys *himself*, but this is rendered in Afrikaans by saying : **Hy geniet dit** (*lit. he enjoys it*). On the other hand there are certain verbs that are usually reflexive in Afrikaans but not in English, e.g.:

jou vergis, *to be mistaken ; jou verveel,* *to be bored, etc.*

The compound pronoun **sigself** (from the Dutch reflexive *zich + -zelf*) survives in a number of traditional expressions such as :

Dit is op sigself onbeduidend, *This is insignificant in itself ; Op sigself genome,* *taken by itself, etc.*

CHAPTER 4

POSSESSIVE AND DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

15. Possessive Adjectives.

Singular		Plural	
my	my	our	ons
your		your	
(familiar)	jou		julle
(polite)	u		u
his, its	sy	their	hulle
her	haar		
its	sy		

The only possessive (pronominal) adjective that is occasionally inflected is **ons**, e.g. in the Lord's prayer : **Onse Vader**, Our Father. Attention has already been drawn (in §9) to the use of **se** and **s'n** (variants of **sy**).

In order to avoid monotony, shortened and less emphatic forms of **julle** and **hulle** (viz. **jul** and **hul**) are sometimes used as possessive (pronominal) adjectives.

Examples :

Julle behoort jul boeke tuis te laat, You should leave your books at home.

Hulle het hul boeke tuis gelaat, They left their books at home.

16. Possessive Pronouns.

Like English, Afrikaans has no article before these forms which in the singular are directly derived from those above (in §15), e.g.:

Dit is myne (joue or joune, syne, hare), This is *mine* (yours, his, hers).

The plurals are formed by adding **s'n** to those above (in §15), e.g.:

Dit is ons s'n (julle s'n, hulle s'n), This is *ours* (yours, theirs).

In the case of the polite form (2nd person singular and plural) **u s'n** is sometimes used colloquially but never in the written language. In the latter case one either uses the preposition-pronoun construction (with **van**), e.g. : **Dit is van u**, This is *yours*, or one adds the name of the thing referred to, e.g. : **Dit is u boek**, This is *your book* (instead of saying : This is *yours*).

17. Demonstrative Adjectives and Pronouns.

The same (compound) forms are used for singular and plural, e.g. :
this, these, **hierdie** that, those, **daardie**.

Examples of demonstrative (pronominal) adjectives :

hierdie tafel, this table **hierdie tafels**, these tables
daardie tafel, that table **daardie tafels**, those tables

The Dutch pronominal **dat** (English *that*) is seldom used and occurs in a few formal combinations only, e.g. :

Dit kan dit of dat wees, It may be either *this* or *that*.

Note the following idiomatic uses of **hierdie** and **daardie** in Afrikaans :

Hierdie boek . . ., This book . . . ; **Daardie boek . . .**, That book . . . ;

Hierdie boek is duur, **Daardie boek is interessant**,
This book is expensive. That book is interesting.

But **Dit is die boek** (or, more emphatic **Dit is die boek hierdie**, This is the (very) book. **Hierdie is die boek** is not idiomatic Afrikaans. That is the book, **Dit is die boek daardie** (and not : **Daardie is die boek**).

Strongly stressed **dié** (written with the sign of the acute accent and equivalent to English *that* or *those*) is sometimes used instead of **daardie**, e.g. :

Dié mense het ek nog nie ontmoet nie, I've not met *those* people yet.

Ek praat van dié wat jy reeds ken, I'm referring to *those* whom you already know.

CHAPTER 5

INTERROGATIVE AND RELATIVE PRONOUNS

18. Interrogative Pronouns and Adjectives.

Wie? Who(m)? **Which** (of . . .)?

Wat? What?

Wat se? What (in derogatory sense)?

Watter? Which? What?

Welk(e)? Which? (seldom used colloquially and by many regarded as bookish).

- (a) **Wie** is a pronoun only, referring to persons. It is equivalent to English *who(m)* and *which (of)*. The genitive functions (*whose*) are served by **wie se**, sometimes by **van wie**.

Examples :

Wie het hom gesien?, Who has seen him?

Aan wie het jy die geld gegee?, Whom did you give the money to?
To whom did you give the money?

Wie van julle het kaartjies vir die konsert?, Which of you have tickets for the concert?

Wie se boek is dit?

Wie se boek is dit hierdie? } Whose book is this?

Van wie is hierdie boek?

Wie se boek is dit daardie? } Whose book is that?
Van wie is daardie boek?

- (b) **Wat** is a pronoun, equivalent to English *what*.

Examples :

Wat is dit?

Wat is dit hierdie? } What is this?

Wat doen sy?, What is she doing?

- (c) After prepositions the pronominal adverbs or adverbial pronouns **waaraan**, **waardeur**, **waarin**, **waarvan**, etc., are used, either as compounds or as separable forms, instead of **wat** (see §13).

Examples :

Waarna luister jy?

Waar luister jy na?

} What are you listening to?

Waarvan is hierdie stoel gemaak?

Waar is hierdie stoel van gemaak?

} What is this chair made of?

- (d) **Wat se** is equivalent to English *what* (but usually in a derogatory sense), e.g. :

Wat se onsin praat jy?, What nonsense are you talking?

Wat se geraas is hier aan die gang?, What noise is going on here?

- (e) **Watter** is actually a compound of **wat** + **vir** (Dutch *wat* + *voor*), the two members of the compound being inseparable.

Examples :

Watter boeke wil jy hê? } Which books do you want?
What books do you want?

Watter mense kom hier aan?, What people are coming here?

Watter nuus is daar?, What is the news? (*lit.* What news is there?).

Het jy al besluit watter jy verkies?, Have you made up your mind about what you prefer?

- (f) **Welke** could be substituted for **watter** in all the examples given in the preceding paragraph, but it is becoming obsolete in the spoken language and is by many regarded as somewhat archaic in the written form of speech.

19. Relative Pronouns.

Wie, whom.

Wat, who, whom, what, that which.

- (a) As a relative pronoun **wie** refers to persons only, but it must be preceded by a preposition. It is, however, sometimes erroneously used, particularly in the written language, instead of **wat** in cases where there is no preposition before it. **Die man wie dit gedoen het . . .** (The man who did this . . .) is not accepted usage in Afrikaans and should be rendered as : **Die man wat dit gedoen het . . .** The following examples may serve to illustrate the correct use of **wie** :

Ken jy die meisie met wie Hendrik gaan trou?, Do you know the girl (whom) Henry is going to marry?

Dit is die man aan wie ek die geld gegee het, This is the man to whom I gave the money (or) This is the man I gave the money to.

Incidentally these two sentences illustrate another important point, viz. that the relative pronoun may sometimes be omitted in English but not in Afrikaans.

- (b) As a relative pronoun **wat** may refer to persons and to things (singular and plural) and may be used as a subject and as an object pronoun, but (unlike **wie**) it is never preceded by a preposition.

Examples :

Die man wat dit gedoen het, was my oom, The man *who* did this was my uncle.

Die man wat hy besteel het, was my oom, The man *whom* he robbed, was my uncle.

- (c) For the so-called "adverbial pronouns" formed by **wat** preceded by a preposition see §13 and §18 (c).
- (d) The genitive relative (*whose*) is expressed by **wie se** when it refers to persons and by **waarvan** in other cases.

Examples :

Dit is die ouers wie se kinders hierdie skool besoek, These are parents *whose* children attend this school.

Dit is die man wie se huis ons gekoop het, This is the man *whose* house we bought.

Ons het huise gesien waarvan die dakke afgewaai was, We saw houses *whose* roofs had been blown off.

20. Independent Relatives.

When there is no antecedent, the relative denoting persons is **wie** and that denoting things is **wat** ; the former is often equivalent to English *he who* and the latter to *that which*.

Examples :

Wie nie wil werk nie, moet gebrek ly, *He who* is unwilling to work, must (be prepared to) suffer poverty (want).

Wat nie doodmaak nie, maak vet, (*lit.*) *That which* does not kill (you), will fatten (you), i.e. Don't be too fastidious about your food.

Ek het hom gegee wat hy nodig gehad het, I gave him *what* he needed.

English *whoever* and *whatever* are rendered by **wie ook al** and **wat ook al**, e.g. :

Wie ook al saamstem, ek nie, *Whoever* (else) agrees, I don't.

Wat ook al gebeur, ek gaan nie, *Whatever* happens, I'm not going.

CHAPTER 6

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

21. The equivalent of the English indefinite pronoun *one* and the Dutch *men* is **mens** (with or without the indefinite article 'n). Some linguists differentiate between **mens** (indefinite pronoun, = Eng. *one*), **'n mens** (noun, = Eng. *a human being, a person*) and **die mens** (= Eng. *man*). Most speakers of Afrikaans, however, use the first two of these forms indiscriminately as indefinite pronouns (as subject and/or as object). It is followed by the reflexive pronoun **jou** (object form of the 2nd person singular of the personal pronoun) and by the possessive pronoun **jou** (form of the possessive adjective). The following examples may serve to illustrate the uses of ('n) **mens** :

(**'n**) **Mens weet (dit) nooit nie,** One never knows.

(**'n**) **Mens vergis jou,** One may make a mistake (*lit.* One may mislead oneself).

Hy vererg ('n) mens, He annoys one.

(**'n**) **Mens moet jou beloftes nakom,** One should keep one's promises.

Dit maak ('n) mens kwaad, This makes one angry.

22. Other indefinite pronouns are **iets** and its negative counterpart **niks** (both used of things and = Eng. *anything/something* and *nothing* respectively) and **iemand** with its negative **niemand** (used of persons and = Eng. *anyone/someone/somebody* and *nobody* respectively).

Examples :

Ek het iets vir jou, I have something for you.

Is daar iets te ete?, Is there anything to eat?

Ek het iets te ete gehad, I had something to eat.

Hy het niks te doen nie, He has nothing to do.

Verwag jy iemand?, Are you expecting anybody (someone)?

Nee, ek verwag niemand nie, No, I'm not expecting anybody (anyone).

Daar is niemand tuis nie, There is nobody at home.

Note the use of old genitive forms after **iets/niks** and **iemand/niemand** :

iets anders, anything (something) else

iets nuuts, anything (something) new

niks anders nie, nothing else

niks nuuts nie, nothing new
iemand anders, anybody (somebody) else
niemand anders nie, nobody else.

23. **Elk** and **ieder** have inflected forms, **elke** and **iedere**, and are also compounded with **-een**: **elkeen**, **iedereen**. The latter forms are pronouns only whereas **elk** and **ieder** may be used pronominally or adjectivally. They may, furthermore, be used indiscriminately for *every* and *each* as well as for *any* and *all*, i.e. more or less distributively or collectively.

Examples :

In elk geval, in any case

In elke geval, in every case

Elkeen (iedereen) weet dit, Everybody knows it.

Hulle het almal omgekom, iedere siel, They all perished, every single one (*lit.* soul) of them.

Hierdie knope kos 10 sent elk, These buttons cost 10 cents each.

Jy kan dit by elke winkel kry, You can get this at any shop.

'n Elk en 'n ieder, each and all

Ieder(een) woel hier om verandering, Everybody longs for (a) change.

24. **Al** (inflected form **alle**) and **alles** may be used as indefinite pronouns, as indefinite cardinal numerals, etc., and are equivalent to English *all*, *all the*, *everything*.

- (a) Before the definite article or a possessive (pronominal) adjective **al** is uninflected, e.g.:

Ek het hom al die geld gegee, I gave him all the money.

Al my vriende, all my friends

Al ons leerlinge, all our pupils.

- (b) The forms **alles** and **almal** (= Dutch *allemaal*) may be used after nouns and pronouns, e.g.:

Ek het die geld alles uitgegee, I spent all the money.

Ons almal, all of us.

- (c) Before a plural noun, Afrikaans uses either **al die** or the inflected form **alle** (without the article), e.g.:

Al die berge is onder sneeu bedek
or
Alle berge is onder sneeu bedek } All the mountains are covered with snow.

- (d) **Alles** may be either subject or object, e.g.:

Alles behoort aan my, Everything belongs to me.

Ek het hom alles vertel wat ek geweet het, I told him everything (all) I knew.

25. The reciprocal pronoun (equivalent to *each other*, *one another*) is **mekaar**.

Examples :

Ons moet mekaar help, We must help one another.

Dra mekaar se laste, Bear (ye) one another's burdens.

The reciprocal pronoun (like the relative) may be omitted after certain verbs in English, but not in Afrikaans, e.g.:

Hulle het mekaar ontmoet, They met.

Hulle het mekaar gesoen, They kissed.

26. **Geen** is always a negative; in other respects its functions have much in common with those of **elk** and **ieder** (see §23). It may be used as a negative article, an indefinite pronoun or pronominal adjective, as an indefinite cardinal numeral, etc. It has an unstressed form **g'n** and (like *elk* and *ieder*) it forms a compound with **-een**, viz. **geeneen**. Its uses and equivalents in English may be illustrated by the following examples :

Ek het g'n geld nie, I've no money.

Ek het hoegenaamd geen geld nie, I've no money whatsoever, viz. none at all.

Ek is geen dief nie, I'm not a thief (no thief).

Ons is nog geen maand hier nie, We haven't been here a month yet.

Ons het mekaar in geen jare gesien nie, We haven't seen one another (each other) for years.

Daar sal g'n haan na kraai nie, Nobody will be the wiser (*lit.* No cock will crow after that).

Geen van beide, neither (of them)

Sy sou geen vrou gewees het nie as . . ., She would have been less than woman if . . .

Instead of unstressed **g'n**, **nie 'n** (English *not a*) can be used, unlike Dutch and German (*geen, kein*), e.g.:

Ek is nie 'n Afrikaner nie, I am not an Afrikaner.

CHAPTER 7

VERBS

27. Finite Forms.

Except for an occasional archaic form preserved in some standardised expressions, Afrikaans has no finite forms of the verb inasmuch as it uses the verbal stem for the first, second and third person (singular and plural) and forms its past tense (historically a perfect tense) from the same stem preceded by auxiliary verbs (but without any inflexional apparatus).

A few (mainly impersonal) verbs like **begin** (to begin), **behoor** (to belong, to be proper), **reën** (to rain), etc., have preserved variant forms in **-t** (the Dutch ending of the third person singular of the present tense), e.g. :

Dit begint te sneeu, It's beginning to snow.

Dit behoort aan my, It belongs to me.

Dit behoort waar te wees, It ought to be true.

Dit reent, It rains/It is raining.

The radically simplified system of verbal forms in Afrikaans may be illustrated by the following bird's-eye view of the conjugation of the verb **loop** (to walk), the literal English equivalents being added where necessary in order to demonstrate the radical nature of the simplification :

Present Tense : **Ek (jy, hy, ons, julle, hulle) loop**, I (you, he, etc.) walk (no change even in the 3rd person singular).

Past Tense : **Ek (jy, hy . . .) het geloop**, I (you, he . . .) have walked or I walked (lit. I has walked).

Future Tense : **Ek (jy, hy . . .) sal loop**, I (you, he . . .) shall walk.

With this attenuated system of verbal forms, Afrikaans manages to express all shades of meaning (person, number, time, etc.) quite adequately, pronouns, auxiliary verbs, adverbs, prefixes and word order supplying details and distinctions that may be necessary.

The Imperative is also identical with the stem, e.g. :

Loop! Walk (along), Be gone, Get going, etc.

28. Non-finite Forms.

The non-finite forms are :

- the Infinitive,
- the Present Participle,
- the Past Participle.

A few brief remarks on these forms and their uses ought to suffice.

- The Infinitive : Its form is identical with that of the stem, viz. **loop** (to walk), e.g. : **Ek sal loop**, I'll walk.

It usually takes **te (to)** or **om te (in order to)** before it, unless it is immediately preceded by an auxiliary or some other verb, e.g., **Jan hardloop om te wen**, John runs to win, **but Gaan (Loop) haal 'n glas water**, Go (and) fetch a glass of water ; **Ek sal loop**, I'll walk (see §§43-45).

Relics of the inflected form of the infinitive (historically the substantive form of the verb preceded by a preposition) are preserved in combinations such as **Iets te drinke (te ete) kry**, To get something to drink (to eat) ; **te danke (te wyte) aan**, due to, etc.

- The Present Participle : It has the ending **-end(e)**. Its forms (with or without a final **-e**) and functions differ. The following points should be noted :

- Present Participles in **-end** with functions fluctuating between those of verbal forms and those of predicative adjectives, e.g. : **Hy is hardhorend**, He is hard (of) hearing ; **Dit was hartroerend**, That was heart-rending.

- A few in **-ende** with functions similar to those in (i) above, e.g. : **Wat is gaande?** What is going (on)? **Sy is sterwende**, She is dying.

Some of these forms are used as nouns, e.g. :

'n sterwende, a dying (person) ; **die sterwendes**, the dying.

- The majority in **-ende** are used as attributive adjectives, e.g. : **die aftredende voorsitter**, the retiring chairman ; **blaffende honde**, barking dogs ; **lopende water**, running water.

- The Past Participle : The Past Tense is formed by means of the auxiliary verb **het (have)** followed by the Past Participle which may have one of three forms :

- Most Past Participles are formed by prefixing **ge-** to the stem of the verb, e.g. : **geanker** (anchored), **gehalveer** (halved), **gemaak** (made), **gesaai** (sown), **gesien** (seen), etc.

- The Past Participles of separable compound verbs are formed by inserting **-ge-** between the two members of the compounds, e.g. : **aanwend** (to apply)—**aangewend** (applied); **deurbreek** (to break through)—**deurgebreek** (broken through); **meedeel** (to inform)—**meegedeel** (informed), etc.

- Inseparable compound verbs generally have no prefix, hence : **aanbid** (to worship)—**het aanbid** (have worshipped); **deurleef** (live through, experience)—**het deurleef** (have lived

through, experienced); **ondervind** (experience)—**het ondervind** (have experienced) ; **onderwerp** (conquer)—**het onderwerp** (have conquered), etc.

Verbs formed by means of the following derivative prefixes belong here and therefore do not differentiate between the forms of the Infinitive and of the Past Participle :

be- : **bederf** (to spoil) ; **belas** (to tax) ; **bevry** (to liberate) ;
er- : **erken** (to acknowledge) ; **erlang** (to acquire) ;
ervaar (to experience) ;

ge- : **gebeur** (to happen) ; **gebied** (to order) ; **gedenk** (to commemorate) ;

her- : **herbou** (to rebuild) ; **herdruk** (to reprint) ; **herkies** (to re-elect) ;

ont- : **ontbind** (to dissolve) ; **ontdek** (to discover) ;
ontwerp (to design) ;

ver- : **verag** (to despise) ; **verbeter** (to improve) ; **verdedig** (to defend).

As in the case of Present Participles (see §28(b)(ii)) some Past Participles may be used as nouns with the endings **-de** (singular), **-des** (plural) and **-te** (singular), **-tes** (plural) according to the final consonant of the stem (voiced or voiceless), e.g. :

Gee my die **verbeterde**, Give me the *amended one* (e.g. copy of a document) ; Gee my die **verbeterdes**, Give me the *amended ones*.

Hy is die **veragte**, He is the *despised one* ; Hulle is die **veragtes**, They are the *despised ones*.

(For adjectives derived from the Past Participles of old strong verbs, see §32).

29. Separable Compounds.

Attention has been drawn to the tendency in Afrikaans to form compound nouns (§6) and pronouns (§§ 13, 17, 18(c), 23 and 26). In the same way verbs are compounded with nouns, e.g. : **beeldhou** (to sculpture), **perdry** (to ride on horseback) ; with adjectives, e.g. : **goedkeur** (to approve), **vryspreek** (to acquit) ; with adverbs, e.g. : **aanneem** (to accept), **voorstel** (to propose), etc.

Some of these are inseparable (e.g. **beeldhou**), but the majority are separable compounds. As a rule these have a strongly stressed first component, whereas those with a strongly stressed second component and uncompounded verbs with derivative prefixes (see §28(c)(iii) above) are generally inseparable.

Inseparable verbs are, as the name implies, always written as one word, but separable compound verbs may be written as one or two

words according to the syntax of the construction. A few general rules should suffice to provide the necessary guidance for the beginner.

(a) Separable compounds are written as one word in :

- (i) the form of the Infinitive without **te** or **om te** (i.e. the form in which they appear in the dictionary) ;
- (ii) the form of the Present and the Past Participle ;
- (iii) the form in subordinate clauses.

Examples :

Ek kan dit nie goedkeur nie, I cannot approve of this, *but*
Dit is nie goed te keur nie, This cannot be approved of, *and*
Ek is nie bereid om dit goed te keur nie, I'm not prepared to approve of this.

Sy resensie van die boek was goedkeurend, His review of the book was favourable (*lit.* approving).

Hy het dit goedgekeur, He has approved of it.

Ek weet dat hy dit goedkeur, I know that he approves of it.

Writing a separable compound as one word (e.g. **goedgekeur**, with **-ge-** separating **goed** and **keur**) does not make it inseparable, as exemplified by the forms **goed te keur** and **om . . . goed te keur**.

(b) Separable compounds are written as two words in :

- (i) simple sentences in the Present Tense ;
- (ii) main clauses in the Present Tense.

Examples :

Ek keur sy plan goed, I approve of his plan.

Ek keur die plan goed wat hy goedkeur, I approve of the plan that he approves of.

(c) Whether compound verbs are separable or inseparable depends in many cases on the position of the main stress, those with a strongly stressed first component being separable and those with a strongly stressed second component being inseparable, e.g. :

ónderhou (to keep down)—**het óndergehou** (have kept down)—separable ;

onderhóu (to support)—**het onderhóu** (have supported)—inseparable ;

óorweeg (to weigh again)—**het óorgeweeg** (have weighed again)—separable ;

oorwéeg (to consider)—**het oorwéeg** (have considered)—inseparable.

It will be noticed that the separable compound verbs as a rule have concrete and literal meanings, whereas the inseparable ones signify something more abstract and figurative.

30. Irregular Verbs.

Afrikaans has no irregular verbs in the sense that Dutch has them, i.e. verbs that are partly strong and partly weak, inasmuch as Afrikaans forms its tenses exclusively by means of non-variable verbal stems, supplemented by what may be called "functional auxiliary words," prefixes etc. In this respect Afrikaans has advanced further than English and much further than Dutch and German.

31. Anomalous Verbs.

There are certain verbs, usually described by grammarians as "anomalous" because they do not conform to the more or less regular paradigms of the different classes either of strong or of weak verbs. They do not form a class by themselves and are grouped together merely for the sake of convenience. They have this in common, however, that they usually function in some auxiliary capacity.

(a) Infinitive : **hê** (*to have*) ; Past Participle : **gehad** (*had*).

Present Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) het**, I have, etc.

Past Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) het gehad**, I had or I have had, etc.

Future Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) sal hê**, I shall have, etc.

Note that the Infinitive form is exceptional in Afrikaans and differs from what in Dutch or English would be called the finite form (**hê—het**).

(b) Infinitive : **kan** (no Inf. in Eng. but equivalent to *can*) ; No Past Participle in Afrikaans or English.

Present Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) kan**, I can, etc.

Past Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) kon**, I could, etc.

Future Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) sal kan**, I shall be able (*to*), etc.

Note that in this case the Past Tense in Afrikaans is actually a "Past" and not, as usually, a "Perfect" and that it is formed by a change in the vowel of the stem. The missing Past Participle has to be supplied by means of substitutes such as **was in staat om** (*had been able to*).

(c) Infinitive : **mag** (no Inf. in Eng. but equivalent to *may*) ; No Past Participle in Afrikaans or English.

Present Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) mag**, I may, etc.

Past Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) mog**, I might have, etc.

Future Tense : **ek (jy/u, hy, sy, dit, ons, julle/u, hulle) sal mag**, I shall be allowed (*to*), etc.

In addition to remarks similar to those under (b) above it may be noted that **mog** is seldom used in Afrikaans. It expresses a wish, a possibility, etc., that remained unfulfilled in the past.

Of the anomalous verbs dealt with above (viz. **hê—have**, **kan—can** and **mag—may**) the first is clearly in a class by itself, whilst (b) and (c) have the same pattern. Of the remaining four (f) is again in a class by itself and has (both in Afrikaans and in English) an Infinitive and a Past Participle, whilst (e) and (g) conform to the pattern of (b) and (c), and (d) differs from all the others. Where Infinitives are lacking the so-called "dictionary forms" are supplied and "makeshifts" are substituted for missing Past Participles. As we have the details of (a), (b) and (c) before us, it would appear to be sufficient to give a bare outline of (d) **moet** (*must*), (e) **sal** (*shall/will*), (f) **wees** (*to be*) and (g) **wil** (*will*) :

(d) **moet** (*must*)—"makeshift" Past Participle in Eng. *had to*.

Present Tense : **ek moet**.

Past Tense : **ek moes**.

Future Tense : **ek sal moet**.

(e) **sal** (*shall/will*)—no Past Participle or substitute.

Present Tense : **ek sal**.

Past Tense : **ek sou**.

Future Tense (none as verb already implies future action).

(f) **wees** (*to be*)—Past Participle : **gewees** (*been*).

Present Tense : **ek is**.

Past Tense : **ek was**.

Future Tense : **ek sal wees**.

Note that **was** is a "Past" and not a "Perfect Tense" and therefore does not require the Past Participle, although a somewhat redundant **gewees** may occasionally be added (**was gewees**) for emphasis. The paradigm contains different verbal stems : Afrikaans **is** and **wees/was** ; English *am, is, are, was/were*.

(g) **wil** (*will*)—"makeshift" Past Participle in Eng. *wanted*.

Present Tense : **ek wil**.

Past Tense : **ek wou**.

Future Tense : **ek sal wil**.

32. Strong and Weak Verbs.

Unlike Dutch and English, Afrikaans has no strong verbs (i.e. verbs changing their stem vowels in the different tense forms of the paradigms, like Eng. *sing—sang—sung*, etc.) and no weak verbs (i.e. verbs with non-variable stem vowels and flexional apparatus to indicate tense forms, like Eng. *walk—walked*, etc.) inasmuch as Afrikaans employs non-variable stems (sometimes supplemented in Past Participles by the prefix *ge-*). The nearest approach to strong verbs in Afrikaans is to be found in the anomalous verbs dealt with in the preceding paragraph.

There are vestiges in Afrikaans of old strong verbs in the form of Past Participles used adjectivally in a more or less figurative sense, whereas the later weak forms are used in a literal meaning. Compare the following :

Sy het 'n **gebroke** hart, She has a broken heart (figurative).

Hy het 'n **gebreekte** been, He has a broken leg (literal).

Dit is 'n **geslote** boek, This is a sealed book (figurative).

Dit is 'n **gesluite** deur, This is a locked door (literal).

The verbs **breek** (to break) and **sluit** (to lock) were strong verbs (in Dutch) and along with a limited number of others have left strong Past Participle forms in Afrikaans which subsequently developed weak forms, as indicated in the examples above.

33. Accusative and Infinitive.

In certain constructions the Afrikaans Past Tense (historically a "Perfect Tense") is formed by the auxiliary with two Infinitives instead of the auxiliary + Past Participle + Infinitive as in English. Note the following pairs of sentences, the first with the simple Afrikaans Past Tense (auxiliary + Past Participle) and the second showing the construction referred to here :

Ek het haar gehoor, I heard her *or* I have heard her, *but*

Ek het haar hoor sing, I heard her sing *or* I have heard her sing (lit. I have *hear* her sing).

Ek het hom gesien, I saw him *or* I have seen him, *but*

Ek het hom sien val, I saw him fall *or* I have seen him fall (lit. I have *see* him fall).

In this construction the principal verb (which is used as the first of the two Infinitives instead of the Past Participle) is usually one that has reference to the senses, e.g. **hoor** (*hear*), **ruik** (*smell*), **sien** (*see*), **voel** (*feel*), etc. But a few other verbs are also used in this manner, e.g. **gaan** (*go*), **laat** (*let*), **maak** (*make*), etc.

Examples :

Ek het gegaan, I went (lit. I have gone), *but*

Ek het dit gaan haal, I went to fetch it (lit. I have *go* to fetch it).

Ek het dit gemaak, I made it (lit. I have made it), *but*

Ek het dit maak staan, I made it stand up (lit. I have *make* it stand up).

Ek het dit geprobeer, I tried it (lit. I have tried it), *but*

Ek het hom probeer help, I tried to help him (lit. I have *try* to help him).

When we use pronouns (as we did above) to illustrate this construction, it is clearly an Accusative and Infinitive construction, but if we were to substitute nouns (which have no case forms—see §9) for the object forms of pronouns (see §13) the actual position is slightly obscured. However, the point that really matters is the use of two Infinitives instead of Past Participle + Infinitive.

34. Paratactic Construction.

The so-called paratactic construction, i.e. with co-ordination instead of subordination of two consecutive verbs, has something in common with the preceding one. The auxiliary is followed by two verbal forms that cannot be formally distinguished from Infinitives.

Examples :

Hy het sit en droom, He sat dreaming (*or* He has been sitting dreaming (lit. He has *sit and dream*).

Hy het staan en praat, He stood talking *or* He has been standing talking (lit. He has *stand and talk*).

The Afrikaans construction will be better understood by comparison with the Dutch equivalent where the first of the two verbs, being the principal verb and a finite form, governs the second in the Infinitive form, e.g. :

Hij zat te dromen, He sat dreaming (lit. He sat *to dream*).

Hij stond te praten, He stood speaking (lit. He stood *to speak*).]

(The Dutch : **Hij heeft staan te praten** has subordination and no parataxis, whilst **Hij heeft zitten dromen** is different, but we are concerned with the peculiarity of the Afrikaans construction here).

The Afrikaans construction in question has, however, also a variant in which a Past Participle is (without affecting the meaning) substituted for the first of the two consecutive verbal forms, e.g. :

Hy het gesit en droom = **Hy het sit en droom**, and

Hy het gestaan en praat = **Hy het staan en praat**.

These are, however, not equivalent to : **Hy het gesit en gedroom** and **Hy het gestaan en gepraat** respectively. These two sentences imply two distinct actions.

35. Reduplicative in Form, Iterative in Meaning.

Though not unknown to other languages, this construction is rather peculiar to Afrikaans. The verbal form is reduplicated (doubled and

hyphenated in spelling) and it conveys the meaning that the action is iterative (i.e. recurring).

Examples :

Die hond hap-hap na die os se stert, The dog keeps on trying to catch the ox by its tail.

Hy gryp-gryp na my hand, He keeps on trying to seize my hand.

Die lokomotief puf-puf die bult uit, The engine keeps on puffing uphill.

When expressed in the Past Tense, the first part of the reduplication gets the prefix **ge-** (of the Past Participle), e.g. :

Die hond het gehap-hap ; Hy het gegryp-gryp ; Die lokomotief het gepuf-puf

Incidentally it may be mentioned that these reduplicative forms are used more extensively as adverbs, e.g.:

Die lokomotief loop puf-puf die bult uit, The engine runs puffing and puffing uphill.

Hy kom staan-staan nader, He advances, stopping from time to time (i.e. in a stopping manner).

Hy doen dit speel-speel, He does it playfully (and keeps on playing at it).

36. Progressive Form.

Afrikaans (like Dutch) has no verbal form corresponding to the English Present and Perfect progressive ("He is thinking"; "He has been thinking"). There are, however, three ways of expressing the progressive function in Afrikaans :

- By the simple Present Tense : **Hy dink**, He thinks or He is thinking.
- By **aan** plus the Infinitive preceded by **'t** (a relic of the Dutch abbreviated neuter form of the definite article **het**) : **Hy is aan 't dink**, He is thinking.
- By substituting **die** (the Afrikaans definite article) for **'t** : **Hy is aan die dink**, He is thinking.

In addition to these ways of expressing the progressive function there are "literary" equivalents such as : **Hy is doende**, (lit. He is doing) (i.e. working) and colloquial ones such as : **Hy is besig om te werk**, He is busy working.

37. Impersonal Verbs.

Afrikaans (like Dutch and English) has a number of impersonal verbs, particularly verbs relating to natural phenomena and to states of mind.

Examples :

Dit reën or Dit reent, It is raining.

Dit sneeu, It is snowing.

Dit storm, It is stormy.

Dit tog, There is a draught.

Dit vries, It is freezing.

Dit waai, It is blowing (It is windy).

Dit spyt my, I am sorry.

Dit verbaas my, I am surprised.

Dit verheug my, I am glad (It gives me pleasure).

Dit verwonder my, I am surprised.

In this type of construction, **dit** is used as an impersonal pronoun, although it was actually a demonstrative pronoun and is still so used, e.g. : **Dit is wat ek wil hê** (= **Ek wil dit hê**), This is what I want (I want this (one)).

38. Imperative.

The imperative is used as in Dutch and in English, but (unlike Dutch) Afrikaans does not employ any finite forms (i.e. no ending is added to the stem) and seldom adds a subject pronoun.

Examples :

Gaan sit asseblief, Please sit down.

Gee aandag hieraan, Pay attention to this.

Omdraai, Turn round. **Draai om** is, however, more natural in Afrikaans.

Trap! Be off! Off with you!

Oppas! or **Pasop!** or **Pas op!** (as two words), Take care.

39. Subjunctive.

As in English, very few relics of the subjunctive are preserved and they are only found in certain traditional expressions e.g. : **as 't ware** (as it were ; so to speak) ; **hoe dit ook al sy** (however that may be), etc.

40. Passive.

As with Dutch, the passive voice is less frequently used in Afrikaans than in English. There are, for example, no compound passive participles in Afrikaans corresponding to English *being called* or *having been called*. Furthermore, constructions such as : "I was paid a large sum of money" and "He will be told the news," etc., are respectively rendered as **'n Groot bedrag geld is aan my betaal** (lit. A large sum of money was paid to me) and **Die nuus sal aan**

hom meegedeel word (lit. The news will be communicated to him). In correspondence (particularly in "departmentalese"), however, expressions such as : "I have been asked to . . ." are rendered as : **Ek is gevra om . . .** or (slightly more formally expressed) as : **My is gevra om . . .** as in : **My is opgedra om . . .**, I have been instructed to . . .

On the other hand there is an impersonal passive construction introduced by **daar**.

Examples :

Daar word geklop, There is a knock at the door (Someone is knocking).

Daar word beweer dat . . ., it is said (rumoured) that . . .

Daar is besluit dat . . ., it was decided that . . .

Daar is ooreengekom . . ., it was agreed that . . .

The passive voice is formed by the past participle and the auxiliaries **word** (to become) and **wees** (to be). For the different forms of the anomalous verb **wees** see §31(f). As the auxiliaries are very often wrongly used (particularly in translations) one should carefully note the following correspondences :

Ek word geslaan, I am beaten (Present) or : I am being beaten (Present Progressive).

Ek is geslaan, I was beaten (Past) or : I was being beaten (Past Progressive) or : I have been beaten (Perfect).

Ek was geslaan, I had been beaten (Pluperfect).

Ek sal geslaan word, I shall be beaten.

English-speaking students are usually misled by the **was** (in **was geslaan**) into translating it into English *was* instead of into the Pluperfect *had been*, e.g. : **Die leerling was geslaan voor die onderwyser opgedaag het**, The pupil *had been beaten* before the teacher turned up.

The Pluperfect in Afrikaans is often strengthened by the addition of adverbs such as **al**, **reeds**, **alreeds**, e.g. : **Die leerling was al (reeds, alreeds) geslaan . . .**, The pupil *had (already) been beaten . . .*

41. Sequence of Tenses.

Afrikaans has its own sequence of tenses. It differs from that of Dutch and of English, differences in the sequence being used to express degrees of certainty or uncertainty about the fulfilment of the action.

In order to bring out such differences, one has to give a more or less literal rendering of some of the following examples :

Hy het gesê (dat) hy sal kom, He said (that) he would come, (*lit.*) He has said (that) he *will* come (i.e. he may still come ; he is still expected to come).

Hy het gesê (dat) hy sou kom, He said (that) he would come, (*lit.*) He has said (that) he *would* come (i.e. he has apparently not turned up and is no longer expected to come).

It follows, therefore, that a Past Tense in Afrikaans is not necessarily followed by a Past, the sequence being dependent on the shade of meaning the speaker wishes to convey.

42. The Historical Present.

Afrikaans very often uses the so-called Historical Present Tense for the sake of vividness in telling a straightforward tale relating to the past or the future. Adverbs of time may be added to express the speaker's intention more precisely. The following sentences (dealt with separately but intended to form a connected tale) may illustrate the use of the Historical Present Tense :

Gister loop ek hom op straat raak, I *met* him in the street yesterday.

Hy vertel toe vir my dat hy vandag weer vertrek, He *told* me that he *would be leaving* again to-day.

Môre is hy al weer op pad huis toe, To-morrow he *will be* on the road homeward again.

For obvious reasons, tales of action and adventure are often written entirely in this tense.

43. Infinitive without *te*.

The Infinitive without *te* occurs in a number of constructions.

(a) In the Accusative and Infinitive construction (see §33).

(b) In the construction (in (a) above) with a passive meaning, e.g. :

Ek het hom sien begrawe, I saw him (being) buried.

Ek het die Volkslied hoor sing, I heard the National Anthem (being) sung.

(c) In constructions where the Infinitive of the principal verb is preceded by the auxiliaries **kan** (*can*), **mag** (*may*), **moet** (*must*), **sal** (*shall/will*), **wil** (*will*).

Examples :

Jy kan gaan, You may go.

Jy mag dit doen, You may (are allowed to) do this.

Jy moet dit doen, You must (have to) do this.

Hy sal gaan, He will go.

Hy wil weet of . . ., he wants to know whether . . .

(d) In constructions where the Infinitive of the principal verb is preceded by certain verbs such as **gaan** (*to go*), **kom** (*to come*), **laat** (*to let*), etc.

Examples :

Wat gaan jy daaromtrent doen?, What are you going to do about it?

Gaan haal vir my 'n glas water, Go (and) fetch me a glass of water.

Kom luister na my, Come (and) listen to me.

Kom koop lemoene, Come (and) buy some oranges.

Laat vir jou 'n pak maak, Have a suit made (for yourself).*

Laat hulle werk, Let them work.

Laat ek (my) sien wat ek vir jou kan doen, Let me see what I can do for you.

- (e) In many negative and interrogative sentences where the Infinitive of the principal verb is preceded by **durf** (*to dare*), e.g. :

Ek durf nie vertel nie, I dare not tell.

Durf jy sê dat, dare you say that

- (f) In constructions where the Infinitive functions as a verbal noun (sometimes preceded by the definite article **die**), i.e. as subject, object or after prepositions and also as predicative adjunct (generally equivalent to the gerund in English).

Examples :

Praat is maklik, Talking is easy.

Ek hoor praat, I hear (someone) talking.

Die lewe is duur, Living is expensive.

Die ete was goed, The food was good (*lit.* The eating was good).

Ek hou van loop, I enjoy walking.

Noem dit wat jy wil, ek noem dit rondslenter, Call it whatever you like, I call it loafing.

Die omdraai van bladsye is maklik, Turning over pages is easy.

44. Infinitive with *te*.

The Infinitive with **te** is less often used in Afrikaans than in Dutch. Its uses in Afrikaans are more or less limited to the following cases :

- (a) In predicative constructions, usually in a passive sense, e.g. :

Dit is te danke (wyte) aan, that is due to . . .

See end of §28(a).

- (b) In constructions with verbs like **doen** (*to do*), **koop** (*to buy*), **kry** (*to get*), **sien** (*to see*), etc., all in passive senses, e.g. :

Dit is nie te doen nie, That can't be done (*lit.* not to do).

Dit is nie te koop nie, That is not for sale (*lit.* not to buy).

Dit is nie te kry nie, That is unobtainable (*lit.* not to obtain).

Die kus is al te sien, The coast is already in sight (*lit.* is already to see).

Dit is te sê, That is to say (It may be said).

45. Infinitive with *om te*.

The Infinitive with **om te** is used more extensively in Afrikaans than in Dutch and not primarily (as in Dutch) to express purpose (= in order to).

It occurs about as often as the other two constructions (i.e. with and without **te**) together :

- (a) in constructions expressing purpose, e.g.:

Ek leef nie om te eet nie, maar ek eet om te leef, I do not live (in order) to eat, but I eat (in order) to live.

Ek werk om 'n bestaan te maak, I work (in order) to make a living.

- (b) in constructions linking up with connecting words like **hoe** (*how*), **waar** (*where*), **waarmee** (*with what, wherewith*), **wanneer** (*when*), etc.

Examples :

Ek weet nie hoe om dit te doen nie, I don't know how to do it.
Ek weet nie waar om dit neer te sit nie, I don't know where to put it down.

Ek weet nie waarmee om dit te maak nie, I don't know where-with to make it, i.e. I don't know what to make it with.

Ek weet nie wanneer om hom te verwag nie, I don't know when to expect him.

- (c) in constructions where the Infinitive is a logical subject or object preceded by a provisional **dit**.

Examples :

Dit is moeilik om te weet wat om te doen, It is difficult to know what to do.

Ek vind dit aangenamer om te luister as om te praat, I prefer listening to talking (to listen rather than to talk).

Ek vind dit prettig om laat op te staan, I like getting up (to get up) late.

(Note the common expressions : **ek vind dit aangenamer**, *lit.* "I find it pleasanter" for "I prefer", and : **ek vind dit prettig**, *lit.* "I find it nice" for "I like it", etc.).

* Note the use of the verb **laat** to indicate having something done by someone else.

(d) in numerous more or less unclassifiable constructions, e.g. :

Hy het in gebreke gebly om sy rekening te betaal, He failed to pay his account.

Hy het vergeet om die geld in die bank te stort, He forgot to deposit the money in the bank.

Om alles te weet, is om alles te vergewe, To know all is to forgive all.

Some further points concerning verbs will be dealt with under **ORDER OF WORDS** (Chapter 10.)

CHAPTER 8

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

46. Adjectives have two forms, uninflected and inflected (with the ending -e). For the use of these forms see §§47-52.

47. Uninflected Adjectives.

Afrikaans adjectives (including present and past participles used as such) are generally uninflected in :

(i) predicative use, e.g. : **Die man is sterk,** The man is strong ; **Hy is hardhorend,** He is hard of hearing ; **Hy is goed opgevoed,** He is well educated ;

(ii) attributive use, in the case of adjectives ending in a diphthong, e.g. : **'n blou boek,** a blue book ; **'n lui vent,** a lazy fellow ; **'n mooi uitsig,** a fine view ; **'n taai soldaat,** a tough soldier ;

(iii) attributive use, in the case of adjectives ending in other consonants than d, f and g, e.g. : **'n swak kind,** a weak child ; **'n sterk man,** a strong man ; **'n kaal mens,** a naked person ; **'n dun lat,** a thin cane ; **'n lang stok,** a long stick ; **'n bont perd,** a piebald horse ; **'n skerp mes,** a sharp knife ; **'n suur appel,** a sour apple ; **'n kort potlood,** a short pencil ; **'n los moer,** a loose nut, etc. ;

(iv) attributive use, in the case of comparatives of three or more syllables, e.g. : **edeler voorouers,** nobler ancestors ; **'n onver-skilliger houding,** a more indifferent attitude ; **'n oordeelkundiger beoordelaar,** a more competent judge, etc.

48. Inflected Adjectives.

Afrikaans adjectives are generally inflected in :

(i) attributive use, in the case of present and past participles with adjectival function, e.g. : **die aftredende voorsitter,** the retiring chairman ; **blaffende honde,** barking dogs ; **lopende water,** running water . . . **gebarste waterpype,** burst waterpipes ; **'n gebreekte been,** a broken leg ; **bedekte foute,** concealed defects (and particularly the so-called strong forms of Past Participles : **'n gebroke hart,** a broken heart ; **verworwe eien-skappe,** acquired characteristics ; **gegote yster,** cast iron, etc.) ; (Note that Past Participles with adjectival function generally conform to this rule and have both inflected and uninflected

forms, e.g. : 'n gebreekte been (a broken leg) and die been is gebreek (the leg is broken), etc. See Appendix as well).

Present Participles with adjectival function, however, have either inflected forms or uninflected forms, sometimes both (see §28(b)). This does not vitiate the general fact that there are inflected and uninflected forms of Present Participles with adjectival function).

(ii) attributive use, in the case of trisyllabic and polysyllabic adjectives (except comparatives), e.g. : 'n gelukkige huisgesin, a happy family ; 'n bevooroordeelde mens, a prejudiced person ; intellektuele belange, intellectual interests ;

(iii) attributive use, in the case of adjectives ending in **d**, **f** and **g**, e.g. : 'n gladde pad, a smooth road ; 'n vreemde land, a foreign country ; 'n wilde hond, a wild dog ; dowe ore, deaf ears ; 'n dowwe kleur, a dull colour ; 'n lawwe storie, a silly story ; 'n digte bos, a thick forest ; 'n ligte vrag, a light load ; 'n slegte gewoonte, a bad habit, etc. ;

(iv) attributive use, in the case of adjectives employed in a more or less figurative sense, e.g. :

'n bang kind, a frightened child, but 'n bange nag, a frightful night

die arm man, the poor man, but die arme man, the unfortunate fellow

flou tee, weak tea, but 'n floue ekskuus, a feeble excuse, etc.

(v) attributive use, in the case of superlatives, e.g. : die beste oplossing, the best solution ; die goedkoopste arbeid, the cheapest labour ; die rykste kos, the richest food, etc. ;

(vi) absolute use, in the case of adjectives functioning as nouns, e.g. :

Ek het my pyp gebreek en moet 'n nuwe kry, I broke my pipe and will have to get a new one.

Die dowe pas die sieke op, (*lit.*) The deaf (*one*) takes care of the sick (*one*).

Jy moet die sure met die soete neem, You should be prepared to take the rough with the smooth (*lit.* the sour with the sweet).

49. Uninflected and Inflected Forms.

Sound laws more or less peculiar to Afrikaans (e.g. modification or dropping of an intervocalic consonant, etc.) are likely to confuse the beginner. A short alphabetical list of uninflected and inflected adjectives with somewhat "irregular" forms may prove useful.

Uninflected

breed (broad)
dig (tight, thick)
dof (dull)
dood (dead)
doof (deaf)
droog (dry)
gaaf (fine, sound)
glad (smooth)
goed (good)
grof (rough)
half (half)
hoog (high)
koud (cold)
laag (low)
laf (silly)
leeg (empty)
lief (dear)
lig (light)
moeg (tired)
muf (musty)
sag (soft)
sleg (bad)
vreemd (foreign, strange)
vroeg (early)
wild (wild)
wreed (cruel)
wuf (frivolous)
wyd (wide)

Inflected

breë
digte
dowwe
dooie
dowe
droë
gawe
gladde
goeie
growwe
halwe
hoë
koue
lae
lawwe
leë
liewe
ligte
moë
muwwe
sagte
slegte
vreemde
vroeë
wilde
wrede
wufte
wye

50. Whether or not the adjective is inflected does not (as in Dutch) depend on the gender of the noun and the nature of the preceding article inasmuch as Afrikaans has no "grammatical gender" (see §1).

51. The independent use of adjectives (i.e. without reference to a noun but functioning independently as such) is not limited to the collective meaning as in English (*the rich, the poor, the blind*, etc.) but may apply to individuals and therefore such adjectival nouns have plural forms as well, e.g. :

'n dowe, a deaf person
'n blinde, a blind person
'n sieke, a sick person

die dowes, the deaf
die blindes, the blind
die siekes, the sick, etc.

52. In Afrikaans, adjectives are also used as nouns (with the old genitive suffix **-s**) after indefinite pronouns (e.g. *something good*) and indefinite numerals (e.g. *much good*)—see §22.

Examples :

iets goeds , something good	iets verkeerds , something wrong
niks goeds , nothing good	niks verkeerds , nothing wrong
veel goeds , much good	weinig belangriks , little of importance, etc.

53. Adverbs.

- (a) In many cases Afrikaans adverbs are identical in form with corresponding uninflected adjectives, e.g. :

Hy is baie deeglik, He is very thorough.

Hy het dit deeglik gedoen, He did it thoroughly.

Dit is maklik, That is easy.

Dit kan maklik gedoen word, That can easily be done.

- (b) Some adverbs, however, are formed by adding the suffix **-lik** to corresponding adjectives, e.g. : **matig**, moderate ; **matiglik**, moderately ; **wettig**, lawful ; **wettiglik**, lawfully, etc.

- (c) Many adverbs are actually old inflected noun forms (particularly those with the genitive ending **-s**, as well as others), e.g. : **bedags** (during the day), **smôrens** (in the morning), **snags** (at night), etc.

- (d) Some adverbs are compounds whose second members have practically become derivative suffixes, e.g. : **duidelikheidshalwe**, for the sake of clearness ; **stuksgewyse**, singly, piecemeal ; **hemelwaarts**, heavenwards ; **agtertoe**, backwards ; **vorentoe**, forward, etc.

54. Comparison.

- (a) Adjectives form, irrespective of the number of syllables in the word, their comparatives and superlatives by adding **-er** and **-ste** respectively to the positive form.

Examples :

klein, small ; **kleiner**, smaller ; **kleinste**, smallest

onduidelik, indistinct ; **onduideliker**, more indistinct ; **onduidelikste**, most indistinct.

- (b) Some adjectives, particularly past participles used adjectivally, form their comparatives and superlatives either with **-er** and **-ste** or with **meer** and **mees**, e.g. :

belese, well-read ; **belesener**, or **meer belese** ; **belesenste** or **mees belese**

verlate, deserted ; **verlatener** or **meer verlate** ; **verlatenste** or **mees verlate**

verleë, bashful, embarrassed ; **verleëner** or **meer verleë** ; **verleëenste** or **mees verleë**.

(Past Participles of strong verbs and similar forms in Dutch had a final **-n** which was dropped in Afrikaans, but which re-emerges in Afrikaans forms such as **verlatener**, **belesener**, etc.).

- (c) The final consonants of the positive are governed in the comparative degree by the same sound laws as the inflected forms of the adjectives concerned (see §49).

breed	breër	breedste	dig	digter	digste
dik	dikker	dikste	dof	dowwer	dofste
doof	dower	doofste	droog	droër	droogste
grof	growwer	grofste	hoog	hoër	hoogste
koud	kouer	koudste	laag	laer	laagste
lief	liewer	liefste	muf	muwwer	mufste
vroeg	vroeër	vroegste	wyd	wyer	wydste , etc.

- (d) Adjectives ending in **-r** take **-der** in the comparative, e.g. :

donker, dark ; **donkerder**, darker ; **donkerste**, darkest

duur, expensive ; **duurder**, more expensive ; **duurste**, most expensive

ver, far ; **verder**, farther ; **verste**, farthest, etc.

- (e) Adjectives ending in **-s** take **-ste** in the superlative, i.e. they are written with **-sste**, e.g. :

fris, fresh ; **frisser**, fresher ; **frisste**, freshest

juis, correct ; **juister**, more correct ; **juisste**, most correct

wys, wise ; **wyser**, wiser ; **wysste**, wisest, etc.

(Note that **fris** and **juis** correspond respectively to Dutch **fris** and **juist**. Apply 7(a)(i) and (iv) to explain **ss** and **st** in the forms of the comparative).

- (f) The following adjectives may be compared with the anomalous verbs (see §31) : they are grouped together merely for the sake of convenience and have little in common except that their degrees of comparison are all more or less irregular. In addition, they may all function either as adjectives or as adverbs.

baie	}	much, many ; meer , more ; meeste , most
veel		
goed , good ;	}	little, few ; minder , less, fewer ; minste , least, fewest.
min		
weinig		

Note that *most people* must be rendered as **die meeste mense** (*meeste* being preceded by the definite article).

Last but not least might be rendered as **les bes** (two rather mutilated old superlative forms).

Ek praat graag, luister nog liever na sprekers en lees liefs self,
I like to talk, but prefer to listen to speakers and enjoy reading best of all.

55. The Positive.

- (a) When persons or things are compared and equality is stated to exist between them, the so-called positive form of the relevant adjective is used. The adjective is placed between two words to express the comparison, viz.: **so . . . as** (= Dutch *zo . . . als*).

Examples :

Jan is so groot as Koos, John is as tall as James.

My potlood is so lank as joue, My pencil is as long as yours.

- (b) Equality may be emphasized by introducing a word like **net** (just) or **presies** (precisely) before **so**, e.g.:

Jan is net (presies) so groot as Koos, John is just (precisely) as tall as James.

In Afrikaans **ewe** (quite, equally), is not used precisely as in Dutch (*even*). In Afrikaans it is mostly used when a comparison is understood but not expressed. Someone, for instance, has drawn attention to the fact that James is tall, and someone else remarks that John is just as tall, **Jan is ewe groot**.

- (c) Comparison may also be understood but left unexpressed by omitting **as**, even by using a superlative before the positive, e.g.:

so groot moontlik, as large as possible ;

bes moontlik, very likely.

- (d) When comparison is vaguely expressed by omitting the adjective, the words **so . . . as** become telescoped into **soos**, e.g. :

Jan is soos Koos, John is like James.

In this case **as** may also be omitted whilst **net** and **so** become telescoped into **nes**, e.g. :

Jan is nes Koos, John is just like James.

56. The Comparative.

- (a) The comparative is used in Afrikaans in the same way as in Dutch and in English except that it is followed by **as** instead of Dutch *dan* (= English *than*).

Examples :

Willem is ouer as Karel, William is older than Charles.

Sy speel beter as my vrou, She plays better than my wife (does).

In cases such as the latter, Afrikaans (like Dutch) does not use a verb after the noun or pronoun as English sometimes does.

- (b) Afrikaans also uses **dan** after a comparative but only in cases where (if it were used) it would be preceded by **as** and followed by **as**, in other words where we would get the sequence : **as . . . as . . . as**. Instead of the latter, we get : **as . . . dan . . . as**. This is fully in agreement with English usage.

Examples :

Hy was groter as 'n krygsman dan as 'n politikus, He was greater as a soldier than as a politician.

Dit is beter as 'n speelding dan as 'n weermiddel, This is better as a plaything than as a means of defence.

- (c) When only two persons or objects are compared, Afrikaans (like Dutch) uses the superlative and not, as in correct English usage, the comparative.

Examples :

Jan is die oudste van die twee broers, John is the elder of the two brothers.

Dit is die beste van die twee, That is the better of the two.

Note that Afrikaans does not (like English) distinguish between *elder* and *older* : both are rendered as **ouer**. The Afrikaans equivalent of the noun *elder* is **ouderling**.

- (d) The construction with *the* (comparative) . . . *the* (comparative) . . . to express a gradually increasing or decreasing degree is usually expressed by **hoe** (comparative) . . . **hoe** (comparative) . . . , or by **hoe** (comp.) . . . **des te** (comp.) . . .

Examples :

Hoe meer jy verdien, hoe meer jy uitgee or hoe meer gee jy uit,
or **Hoe meer jy verdien, des te meer gee jy uit,** The more you earn, the more you spend.

Hoe eerder, hoe beter, The sooner, the better, etc.

- (e) The repetition of the comparative in the same sense is rendered by **hoe langer . . . hoe** (comparative) or by **al hoe** (comp.) or by **steeds** (comp.).

It is getting colder and colder, **Dit word hoe langer hoe kouer**
or **Dit word al hoe kouer** or **Dit word steeds kouer**.

57. The Superlative.

- (a) The superlative is generally used as in Dutch and in English. It has the ending **-ste** whether attributively or predicatively used and is preceded by the definite article **die**.

Examples :

Die meeste mense hoop dit, Most people hope so.

Dit is die beste, That is the best.

Sy speel die beste van almal, She plays the best of all.

- (b) The adverbial superlative usually drops the inflexional **-e** of the suffix **-ste** and as Afrikaans does not as a rule tolerate the combination **-st** in the final position, the **t** of **-st** is also dropped. This accounts for the adjectival superlative ending **-ste** and the adverbial superlative **-s**.

Examples :

Die meeste mense, most people

Die mees belese mense, the best-read people

Die beste mense, the best people

Die mees verleë mense, the most embarrassed people, etc.

- (c) The absolute superlative expresses a high degree without any idea of comparison. It usually corresponds to an English adjective or adverb preceded by *very* (or *most* used with the meaning *very*). It is formed by the use of the adverbial superlative **hoogs** (most highly) before the positive or by the prefix **aller-** before the superlative.

Examples :

Dit is hoogs beskaafde mense, They are most highly educated people.

Dit is die allerbeste plan, That is the very best plan.

Dit is bes moontlik, That is very likely, etc.

- (d) Note that *by far the best* is rendered in Afrikaans as **verreweg die beste** and that the absolute adverbial superlative **bes** is sometimes used in isolation in the sense of "very good" or "all right".

CHAPTER 9

NUMERALS

58. Spelling.

It would seem to be an established tradition in English spelling to write numerals such as *twenty-five* hyphenated, but the less usual order of words *five and twenty* without hyphens is also acceptable in certain circumstances (e.g. *time* : five and twenty to four). In Afrikaans the latter is the one and only order of words and both cardinals and ordinals (like fractions, see §64) are written as separate words. Fractions are separated from integers (whole numbers) by a comma, e.g. *twenty-one* : **een en twintig**; *twenty-first* : **een en twintigste**; $\frac{21}{23}$: **een en twintig drie en twintigstes**; $\frac{120}{23}$: **een, en twintig drie en twintigstes**.

59.

Cardinals

Ordinals

1. een	eerste
2. twee	tweede
3. drie	derde
4. vier	vierde
5. vyf	vyfde
6. ses	sesde
7. sewe	sewende
8. ag or agt	agste or agtste
9. nege	negende
10. tien	tiende
11. elf	elfde
12. twaalf	twaalfde
13. dertien	dertiende
14. veertien	veertiende
15. vyftien	vyftiende
16. sestien	sestiende
17. sewentien	sewentiende
18. agtien	agtiende
19. negentien or neëntien	negentiende or neëntiende
20. twintig	twintigste
21. een en twintig	een en twintigste

Cardinals

22. twee en twintig
23. drie en twintig
30. dertig
31. een en dertig
40. veertig
50. vyftig
60. sestig
70. sewentig
80. tagtig *or* taggentig
90. negentig *or* neëntig
100. honderd
101. honderd en een
200. twee honderd
- 1,000. duisend
- 2,000. twee duisend
- 1,000,000. een miljoen
- 1,000,000,000. een miljard
0. nul

Ordinals

- twee en twintigste
- drie en twintigste
- dertigste
- een en dertigste
- veertigste
- vyftigste
- sestigste
- sewentigste
- tagtigste *or* taggentigste
- negentigste *or* neëntigste
- honderdste
- honderd en eerste
- twee honderdste
- duisendste
- twee duisendste
- miljoenste
- miljardste

60. When we make allowance for certain sound laws, etc. (as in **derde**, **sewende**, **negende**) and for exceptional forms (such as **eerste** and **ag(t)ste**) we find that the ordinals up to 19 are formed by adding **-de** to the cardinals and **-ste** to those beyond 19.
61. The numerals **honderd** (100), **duisend** (1,000), **miljoen** (1,000,000) and **miljard** (1,000,000,000) may, for reasons of emphasis or on other grounds, take the indefinite article **'n** or the cardinal **een**, e.g. : **'n duisend**, a thousand ; **een duisend**, one thousand, etc.
62. Units preceding tens and tens combined with higher numbers are joined by **en** (*and*), e.g. **een en twintig**, etc., **drie honderd en dertig**, but when higher numbers are joined to both units and tens the **en** is omitted, e.g. **drie honderd drie en dertig**, etc.
63. **Indefinite Ordinals.**

The meanings and uses of indefinite ordinals such as **hoeveelste**, **laaste**, **soveelste** (all preceded by the definite article **die**) may be illustrated by the following examples :

Die hoeveelste keer is jy nou al afwesig gewees?, How many times (*lit.* The *how many-th* time . . .) have you been absent now?

Die hoeveelste is dit vandag ?, What is the date to-day?

Dit is die laaste keer dat dit moet gebeur, This must not happen again (*lit.* This is the last time that this is to happen).

Ek vertrek op die laaste Mei, I'll be leaving on the last (day) of May.

Ek sê jou vir die soveelste keer dat . . ., I tell you (I'm telling you) once again (*lit.* for the *so many-th* time, slang : for the *umpteenth* time) that . . .

Op die soveelste van die maand . . ., On such and such a date (day of the month).

64. Fractions.

Fractions are expressed as in Dutch and in English : **een derde**, a (one) third ; **twee derdes**, two thirds, etc.

Note the following equivalents :

'n half or **halwe**, a half *or* half a

die helfte (the) half, e.g. **gee my die ander helfte**, give me the other half

een en 'n half (or **halwe**) or **anderhalf** or **anderhalwe**, one and a half

'n vierde, **'n kwart**, a fourth, a quarter

drie vierdes, **drie kwart**, three-fourths, three quarters

'n kwart pond, a quarter of a pound

'n kwartier, a quarter of an hour

'n kwartaal, a quarter of a year (also : a school term)

'n agste or **'n aks**, an eighth (**'n aks** being usually an eighth of an inch).

65. It appears from the above that ordinals may be used in the plural, particularly in fractions, e.g. **drie vierdes**, three fourths. Cardinals are also used in the plural, particularly in quoting the scores in target shooting, e.g. : **Hy het drie drieë en twee viere geskiet**, His score (at the butts) was three threes and two fours. A try in rugby (football) is called **'n drie**, the plural being also **drieë**.

66. Derivatives from Numerals.

Een maal (once) is written as two words in Afrikaans, but the indefinite **eenmaal** (once upon a time) as one word. **Twice**, **thrice**, etc. are rendered as **twee maal**, **drie maal**, etc.

Ten eerste, first(ly), **ten tweede**, second(ly), etc., are preferred to **eerstens** and **tweedens** which are modelled on the analogy of German forms.

Enerlei (of the same kind), **tweërlei** (of two kinds), **drieërlei** (of three kinds), etc., are paralleled by **'n tweetal** (a couple), **'n drietal** (a group of three), **'n viertal** (a group of four), etc.

Finally there are (**'n**) **enkel(e)**, (a) single ; **enkelvoud**, singular ; **meervoud**, plural ; **tweevoud**, multiple of two ; **tweevoudig**, twofold ; **dubbel**, double, etc.

CHAPTER 10

ORDER OF WORDS

67. The order of words is a matter of syntax, a very wide field that can be satisfactorily mastered only by extensive and intensive reading and observation. Idiomatic expressions provide useful materials for the study of syntax, and it should be noted at the outset that although Afrikaans (a radically simplified form of Dutch) has preserved many Dutch idioms, it has in many instances created an order of words peculiar to itself. Afrikaans syntax is, moreover, a linguistic field that has up to the present scarcely been adequately covered by authoritative studies devoted to the subject. The following sections, therefore, make no pretence of giving more than a bare outline of the order of words in Afrikaans.

68. Place of the Verb.

The normal word order in a simple Afrikaans sentence or in a main clause preceding a compound or a complex sentence is : Subject—Verb—Object (if any), the Indirect Object (as in Dutch and in English) standing before the Direct Object.

Examples :

Ek praat Afrikaans, I speak Afrikaans.

U is die dosent, You are the tutor.

U leer my Afrikaans, You teach me Afrikaans.

69. In English, adverbial complements as a rule follow the Direct Object, in Afrikaans they may precede or follow, e.g. :

Ek praat vlot Afrikaans, I speak Afrikaans fluently.

Ek verstaan Afrikaans heeltemal goed, I understand Afrikaans quite well.

70. If some other part of the sentence, other than the Subject (e.g. an adverbial complement), comes first, the verb retains its place (second) and is followed by the Subject, e.g. :

In Suid-Afrika praat ons Afrikaans en Engels, In South Africa we speak Afrikaans and English.

If the preceding statement is expressed in the passive voice, the auxiliary verb comes before the Subject and the Past Participle after it, e.g. :

In Suid-Afrika word Afrikaans en Engels gepraat, In South Africa Afrikaans and English are spoken.

71. If the verb is compound in the sense of being composed of an auxiliary and an Infinitive or a Past Participle, the auxiliary retains the normal position of the verb (second), the Infinitive or Past Participle following at the end.

Examples :

Ek kan u verstaan, I can understand you.

Ek kan u nie verstaan nie, I cannot understand you.

Ek het u nie verstaan nie, I did not understand you.

U sal my nie kan verstaan nie, You will not be able to understand me.

The same word order is used when a principal verb is accompanied by an Infinitive, e.g. :

U leer Afrikaans praat, You are learning to speak Afrikaans.

U begin Afrikaans (te) verstaan, You are beginning to understand Afrikaans.

U hoor Afrikaans praat, You hear Afrikaans (being) spoken.

72. If a subordinate clause introduced by a conjunction or a relative pronoun precedes the main clause, it becomes the first part of the sentence and the main clause begins with the principal verb, e.g. :

As u langsaam praat, verstaan ek u, If you speak slowly I (can) understand you.

Wat u sê, verstaan ek nie, I do not understand what you say.

When the principal verb is compound in the sense of §71, the order of the Subject and the auxiliary becomes reversed, e.g. :

As u langsaam praat, kan ek u verstaan, If you speak slowly I can understand you.

Wat u sê, kan ek nie verstaan nie, I cannot understand what you say.

Compare the following two sentences :

Wat hy doen, weet ek nie, I don't know what he is doing, *and*

Wat hy doen, wil ek nie weet nie, I do not wish to know what he is doing.

73. Subordinate Clauses.

The order of words in subordinate clauses has been touched upon in the paragraph on the sequence of tenses (§41) and in the preceding one. A few further remarks on word order deserve attention at this stage.

- (a) In subordinate clauses the verb (as in Dutch) takes the end position, no matter whether the main clause or the subordinate clause comes first, e.g. :

U verstaan my as ek langsaam praat	} You understand me if
or	
As ek langsaam praat, verstaan u my	(when) I speak slowly.

- (b) If the verb is compound (in the sense of §71) the past participle always precedes the auxiliary, e.g. :

As u langsam gepraat het, sou ek u verstaan het, If you had spoken slowly, I should have understood you.

- (c) In the main as well as in the subordinate clause, the word order of the constituents of a compound verb (consisting of the Past Participle of the principal verb and two auxiliaries) is as a rule : auxiliary + Past Participle + auxiliary.

Examples :

Ek glo nie dat hy dit kon bekostig het nie, I do not believe (think) that he could have afforded it.

As hy jou geld kon gegee het, sou hy dit seker gedoen het, If he could have given you money he would certainly have done so.

- (d) In subordinate clauses the word order of verbal forms is generally auxiliary (or substitute such as **gaan, kom, laat, maak**, etc.) + Infinitive(s).

Examples :

Hy sê dat hy ons môre sal besoek, He says that he will visit us to-morrow.

Hy sê dat hy ons môre kom besoek, He says that he is coming to visit us to-morrow.

Hy sê dat hy môre wens te kom, He says that he wants (wishes, intends) to come to-morrow.

Hy het belowe dat hy vanmôre sou kom werk, He promised that he would come to work this morning.

Subordinate clauses following main clauses in which something is denied will be dealt with in the paragraph on the double negative in Afrikaans (see §77).

74. Interrogative Word Order.

- (a) In simple interrogative sentences the word order is : Verb + Subject + Object (if any), e.g. :
Praat u?, Are you speaking?
Praat u Afrikaans?, Do you speak Afrikaans?
- (b) If simple interrogative sentences such as those in (a) above are put in the Past Tense, the word order is :
 Auxiliary + Subject + Object (if any) + Past Participle, e.g. :
Het u gepraat?, Did you speak?
Het u Afrikaans gepraat?, Did you speak Afrikaans?
- (c) In questions introduced by an interrogative word (i.e. interrogative pronoun or interrogative adjective with its accompanying noun) the word order is :

With a simple verb

Interrogative Word + Verb + Subject or Object or Predicative Complement, e.g. :

Wat sê jy?, What do you say? What are you saying? (*lit.* What say you?)

Wat beïnvloed die dosent?, What influences the teacher?

Wie sien jy?, Whom do you see?

Wie lees die boek?, Who is reading the book?

Wie is die dosent?, Who is the tutor?

Wie was die dosent?, Who was the tutor?

Hoeveel kinders het hulle?, How many children have they?

With a compound verb

Interrogative Word + Auxiliary + Subject or Object + Past Participle, e.g. :

Wat het jy gesê?, What did you say? What have you said?

Wat het die dosent beïnvloed?, What (has) influenced the teacher?

Wie het jy gesien?, Whom did you see? Whom have you seen?

Wie het die boek gelees?, Who (has) read the book?

Hoeveel kinders het hulle gehad?, How many children did they have?

- (d) If a subordinate clause of condition precedes an interrogative main clause, the word order is the same as in §73(b), e.g. :

As u langsam gepraat het, sou ek u verstaan het?, If you had spoken slowly, would I have understood you?

As ek 'n huurmotor kon gekry het, sou ek die trein gehaal het?, If I had been able to get a taxi, would I have caught the train?

The word order in both clauses (main and subordinate) remains unchanged if the main clause precedes the subordinate one.

Sou ek u verstaan het as u langamer gepraat het?

Sou ek die trein (kon) gehaal het as ek 'n huurmotor kon gekry het?

- (e) Any affirmative statement may be turned into an interrogative sentence by the addition of the interrogative phrase **nie waar nie**, e.g. :

Jy weet waar ons woon, nie waar nie?, You know where we live, don't you?

Dit is die geval, nie waar nie?, That is the case, isn't it?

- (f) A negative statement may be made interrogative by adding an interrogative clause (not a phrase, as above, nor a single word like the Dutch interrogative *wel?*), e.g. :

Jy weet nie waar ons woon nie, of weet jy dit?, You don't know where we live, do you? (*lit.* or do you know?)

Jy kan dit nie doen nie, of kan jy?, You can't do it, or can you?

Jy het dit nie gedoen nie, of het jy?, You didn't do it, or did you?

Jy moes dit nie gedoen het nie, of moes jy?, You did not have to do it, or did you? (or) You should not have done it, or should you?

Pronominal exclamatory sentences have the same word order as those in (c) above, e.g. :

Wat 'n (Wat se or Watter) lawaai maak jy tog!, What a noise you are making!

Watter onsin word daar nie alles gepraat nie!, What nonsense they are talking!

Wat se gemors het hulle nie daarvan gemaak nie!, What a mess they have made of it!

75. Imperative Sentences.

As will be seen from the examples below, usage is the same as in English.

- (a) In so-called one-word sentences, the Imperative is used alone, e.g. : **Halt!** Halt!, Stop! ; **Loop!** Go! ; **Trap!** Be off!

- (b) In other imperative sentences the verb normally stands at the beginning, but it may be preceded or followed by the name of the person addressed or his title or by a pronoun, these constituents being usually separated by a comma from the rest of the command.

Examples :

Gaan sit!, Sit down!

Jan, gaan sit!, John, sit down!

Gaan sit, Jan!, Sit down, John!

Jy (daar), gaan sit!, You (there) sit down!

Gaan sit, jy (daar)!, Sit down, you there!

For the negative of the imperative, see §77(i).

76. Place of Objects, Adverbs and Adjuncts.

- (a) Objects, adverbs and prepositional (or other) adjuncts may change places in accordance with the speaker's intention to emphasize some particular word, etc., e.g. :

Vanaand gaan ek huis toe or Ek gaan vanaand huis toe or Ek gaan huis toe vanaand, To-night I'm going home, I'm going home to-night.

- (b) Adverbial and prepositional adjuncts usually precede the principal verb or its auxiliary, followed by the Subject, e.g. :

Voor die huis het ons 'n klein tuintjie, In front of the house we have a little garden, We have a little garden in front of the house.

Gister het ons struik geplant, Yesterday we planted some shrubs, We planted some shrubs yesterday.

- (c) When there is a sequence of an adverb of time and a prepositional adjunct, the order of words in Afrikaans is the reverse of what it usually is in English, e.g. :

Dit het gister op A. gebeur, This happened in A. yesterday.

Ek sal hom môre op A. besoek, I shall call on him in A. tomorrow.

77. The Negative.

The expression of negation is important in Afrikaans, as there may be a single or double negative, and the position of the negative(s) may vary. The student will best learn the correct use of the negative by practice, but below we give the main tendencies.

- (a) A single negative may suffice in a very curt denial, e.g. :

Wie het dit gesê? Ek weet nie, Who said so? I don't know.

- (b) In simple denials such as the preceding one there may, however, be one or more negatives, e.g. :

Hoeveel het jy? Niks (nie), How much have you? Nothing.

- (c) Whenever the verb is compound (in the sense of having an auxiliary) or when it is simple but has a predicative complement or an Object, the so-called double negative (**nie . . . nie**) is used, e.g. :

Hy het nie gekom nie, He hasn't come.

Ek het die verkeerslig nie gesien nie, I didn't see the traffic lights.

Ek kon dit nie gebruik nie, I couldn't use it.

Die man is nie 'n Afrikaner nie, The man is not an Afrikaner.

Ek speel nie klavier nie, I don't play the piano.

- (d) When sentences of the preceding type are made interrogative, the order of Subject and auxiliary is reversed, e.g. :

Het jy die verkeerslig nie gesien nie?, Didn't you see the traffic lights?

Kon jy dit nie gebruik nie?, Couldn't you use it?

- (e) In complex sentences, if it is the main clause that is being negated, and this clause precedes a subordinate noun clause, the first negative is put in the main clause and the second at the end of the subordinate clause, e.g. :

Ek het nie gehoor wat jy gesê het nie, I didn't hear what you said.

Ek kon nie sien dat hy die straat oorsteek nie, I couldn't see that he was crossing the street.

- (f) If the main clause is negated but followed by an adverbial clause (e.g. conditional, causal, concessive), the second negative usually comes at the end of the main clause, e.g. :

Ek is nie bereid om jou te help nie, tensy jy my betaal, I am not prepared to help you unless you pay me.

Hy wil nie werk nie, tensy hy eers iets te drinke kry, He won't work, unless he is first given a drink.

Ek is nie bereid om jou te help nie, hoewel jy my betaal, I am not prepared to help you, although you are paying me.

Hy wil nie werk nie, omdat hy siek is, He won't work because he is ill.

- (g) If both the main and the subordinate clauses are negated, the **nie** is only repeated in the subordinate clause, e.g. :

Hy het nie gekom, hoewel hy nie siek is nie, He hasn't come, although he isn't ill.

- (h) If **nie** negatives, not the verb, but some adjective or adverb, the second **nie** may stand in the middle of the sentence instead of at the end, e.g. :

Nie ver van die pad nie staan 'n huisie } Not far from the
Daar staan 'n huisie nie ver van die pad nie } road is a small house.

- (i) In the imperative, the negative is usually expressed by means of the word **moenie** (a telescoped combination of **moet** (= Eng. *must*) and **nie**, compare Eng. *don't*), e.g. :

Moenie gaan nie, Don't go.

Moenie probeer om dit nie te doen nie, Don't try not to do it.

CHAPTER 11

WORD FORMATION

Agglutination

78. When, in consequence of frequency of juxtaposition, two words eventually grow together or become glued together, as when *black bird* (with two strong accents) becomes *blackbird* (with a single strong accent), we may call this manner of word formation (by a term formerly applied to certain language groups) "agglutination". It plays quite an important part in Afrikaans, which often differentiates between words (pronounced and written as two or more words) and the same words (pronounced and written as one word) not only in accentuation and spelling, but also in meaning.

Examples :

(die) ander kant, (the) other side	'anderkant, beyond
droë vrugte, fruit without juice	'droëvrugte, dehydrated fruit
een dag, a single day	'eendag, once upon a time
een uur, one hour	'eenuur, one o'clock
geel wortels, yellow roots	'geelwortels, carrots
goed praat, to speak well	'goedpraat, to explain away
groot mense, important people	'grootmense, adults
heel agter, right at the back	'heelagter, fullback (in football)
klein kind, little child	'kleinkind, grandchild
mooi praat, to speak well	'mooipraat, to coax
te veel, too much	te'veel, surplus
wilde bees, wild ox or cow	wilde'bees, gnu
wit wortels, white roots	'witwortels, parsnips

(The accentuated syllable is indicated by ' before it).

Compounds

79. Attention has already been drawn to compound nouns (see §6). But the tendency to form compounds is not limited to nouns. Practically any two parts of speech may be combined to form new words. The following types of compounds, though far from being exhaustive, will serve to give some idea of the role played in Afrikaans by the compounding of words.

- (a) Noun + noun : **boeksak**, satchel ; **sakboek**, pocket book ; **huisdier**, domestic animal ; **hempbroek**, combinations ; **hempsknoop**, shirt-button ; **hemdegoed**, shirting ; **kinderkamer**, nursery, etc.

It will be noted that some of these are compounded without change of form and without the help of formative elements (e.g. **boeksak**, **sakboek**), whilst others show a change of form and/or make use of formative elements such as **-e-**, **-s-** and **-er-** (e.g. **hemdegoed**, **hempsknoop**, **kinderkamer**).

- (b) Verb + noun : **loopbaan**, career ; **loopbrug**, foot-bridge ; **loopplank**, gangway ; **snybank**, cooper's bench ; **snyboontjies**, haricot-beans ; **snydokter**, surgeon, etc.

- (c) Noun + verb : **beeldhou**, to sculpture ; **duimgooi**, to thumb a lift ; **duimry**, to hitch-hike ; **puntsweis**, to spot-weld, etc.

- (d) Verb + verb : **flikflooï**, to cajole ; **ginnegap**, to giggle ; **klapwiek**, to flap the wings ; **ryloop**, to hitch-hike, etc.

- (e) Pronoun + pronoun : **haarself**, herself ; **homself**, himself ; **jouself**, yourself ; **myself**, myself, etc.

- (f) Pronoun + preposition ; **watter** (from **wat vir**), what, which, etc.

- (g) Adverb + pronoun : (**'n**) **hierjy**, (a) lout, etc.

- (h) Adverb + preposition (forming the so-called pronominal adverbs or adverbial pronouns) : **waardeur**, whereby ; **waarmee**, wherewith ; **waarvan**, whereof, etc.

See further separable compound verbs (§29) and reduplicative verbs (§35).

Derivation

80. Afrikaans, like Dutch and English, forms new words by means of prefixes and suffixes. Some of the most important affixes (i.e. prefixes and suffixes) will be given here. They will be grouped in a manner calculated to indicate the role they play in the different parts of speech.

81. Nouns.

(i) Prefixes

- (a) **be-** is used to form nouns, particularly abstract ones, e.g. : **bederf**, decay ; **beding**, stipulation ; **bedrog**, deceit ; **bedryf**, industry ; **bedwang**, restraint, etc.

- (b) **ge-** forms collective nouns, especially in combination with the suffix **-te**, e.g. :

gebak, pastry ; **gebeente**, bones (of skeleton) ; **gebergte**, mountain-range ; **gebied**, area ; **geboomte**, forest, etc.

- (c) **her-** forms nouns expressing a repetition of an action, e.g. :

herbou, reconstruction ; **herdoop**, rebaptism ; **herdruk**, re-print ; **hereksamen**, re-examination ; **herkoms**, origin, etc.

- (d) **on-** (like English *dis-*, *in-*, *un-*) forms nouns expressing the absence of something, e.g. :

ondank, ingratitude ; **ondeug**, vice ; **ondiens**, disservice ; **ondier**, monster ; **oning**, absurdity, etc.

- (e) **ont-** forms nouns expressing something like "arising from", e.g. :

ontbyt, breakfast ; **onthaal**, entertainment ; **ontsag**, respect ; **ontset**, relief ; **ontslag**, discharge, etc.

- (f) **ver-** forms nouns like those in (a) above, e.g. :

verband, connection ; **verblyf**, residence ; **verbod**, prohibition ; **verbond**, alliance ; **verbruik**, consumption, etc.

- (g) **wan-** forms nouns expressing something "wrong" (like English *dis-*, *mal-*, *mis-*), e.g. :

wanbegrip, false notion ; **wanbeheer**, maladministration, mismanagement ; **wandaad**, misdeed ; **wanhoop**, despair ; **wanorde**, disorder, etc.

(ii) Suffixes

- (a) **-aar** forms the names of male agents, usually (but not exclusively) from verbs, e.g. :

bewonderaar, admirer ; **minnaar**, lover ; **moordenaar**, murderer ; **rekenaar**, reckoner ; **tekenaar**, draughtsman, etc.

- (b) **-aard** forms the names of males from adjectives and generally lends to such names a somewhat unfavourable meaning, e.g. :

gierigaard, miser ; **grysaard**, grey-beard ; **lafaard**, coward ; **luiaard**, sluggard ; **wreedaard**, brute, etc.

- (c) **-asie** (corresponding to English *-age*) forms collective and abstract nouns, e.g. :

bagasie, luggage ; **bosgasie**, thicket ; **dierasie**, monstrosity ; **lekkasie**, leakage ; **pakkasie**, baggage, etc.

- (d) **-dom** (English *-dom*) forms abstract, collective and other nouns, e.g. :

eiendom, property ; **hertogdom**, duchy ; **Jodedom**, Jewry ; **mensdom**, mankind ; **rykdom**, wealth, etc.

- (e) **-er** is used, as in English, to form the names of male agents from verbs, e.g. :

drywer, driver ; **leser**, reader ; **skrywer**, writer ; **spreker**, speaker ; **werker**, worker, etc.

(f) **-es** (English *-ess*) forms the names of female agents from those of male agents, e.g. :

digteres, poetess ; **eienares**, woman-owner ; **minnares**, (love) mistress ; **onderwyseres**, schoolmistress ; **sangeres**, female singer, etc.

(g) **-eur** generally functions like English *-or* in forming the names of male agents (especially from loanwords), e.g. :

akteur, actor ; **direkteur**, director ; **eksekuteur**, executor ; **goewerneur**, governor ; **testateur**, testator, etc.

(h) **-heid** (corresponding historically to English *-hood* but generally functioning like *-ness*) forms abstract nouns from adjectives, e.g. :

boosheid, wickedness ; **domheid**, dullness ; **goedheid**, goodness ; **rooiheid**, redness ; **volheid**, fullness, etc.

(i) **-ier** forms names of male persons from nouns, usually denoting a trade or occupation, e.g. :

kruidenier, grocer ; **rentenier**, rentier ; **spysenier**, caterer ; **tuinier**, gardener ; **winkelier**, shopkeeper, etc.

(j) **-in** forms the names of female persons or animals from those of the corresponding males, e.g. :

berin, she-bear, sow ; **godin**, goddess ; **gravin**, countess ; **hertogin**, duchess ; **koningin**, queen, etc.

(k) **-ing** forms abstract and concrete nouns from verbs (but never in a verbal function like the English gerund), e.g. :

aanbidding, worship ; **beboeting**, fining ; **demping**, subduing ; **enting**, grafting ; **halvering**, halving, etc.

(l) **-is** (corresponding to English *-ist*) forms the names of male agents from nouns, adjectives and other parts of speech, e.g. :

bloemis, florist ; **chiropodis**, chiropodist ; **Darwinis**, Darwinist ; **spesialis**, specialist ; **telegrafis**, telegraphist, etc.

(m) **-iteit** (corresponding to English *-ity*) forms abstract nouns, e.g. :

aktiwiteit, activity ; **objektiwiteit**, objectivity ; **passiwiteit**, passivity ; **produktiwiteit**, productivity ; **subjektiwiteit**, subjectivity, etc.

(n) **-kus** (plural **-ci**) forms the names of male agents from nouns of classical origin, e.g. :

fisikus, physicist ; **historikus**, historian ; **matematikus**, mathematician ; **musik**, musician ; **skeptikus**, sceptic, etc.

(o) **-nis** (English *-ness*) forms abstract nouns, usually from verbs, e.g. :

begrafnis, funeral ; **bekommernis**, anxiety ; **belydenis**, confession ; **verbinten**, commitment ; **vergifnis**, forgiveness, etc.

(p) **-sel** forms nouns from verbs, such nouns expressing a vaguely defined "quantity", e.g. :

baksel, quantity (e.g. of biscuits) baked, batch ; **brousel**, brew ; **kooksel**, quantity cooked ; **mengsel**, mixture ; **treksel**, brew (of coffee or tea), etc.

(q) **-skap** forms abstract nouns from nouns and adjectives, e.g. :

blydskap, gladness ; **leierskap**, leadership ; **maagskap**, kinship ; **vriendskap**, friendship ; **vyandskap**, enmity, etc.

(r) **-ster** forms the names of female agents from verbs, e.g. :

modemaakster, dressmaker ; **naaister**, needlewoman ; **skryfster**, authoress ; **tikster**, typist(e) ; **werkster**, charwoman, etc.

(s) **-te** forms abstract nouns from adjectives, e.g. :

breedte, breadth, width ; **hoogte**, height, and collective nouns in conjunction with the prefix **ge-** (see §81(i)(b) above).

82. Diminutives.

Apart from some adverbial diminutives and a few others, practically all the diminutives are noun forms. Before proceeding to deal with their forms we wish to make a few preliminary remarks about their uses. Diminutives do not necessarily imply that the persons or things referred to are actually small, e.g. **pappie**, daddy ; **mammie**, mummy, etc. These and many similar ones are primarily terms of endearment. On the other hand, they may be terms of belittlement, e.g. **klerkie**, **onderwysertjie**, (an imp of a) clerk, teacher, etc., a nincompoop.

Forms of Diminutives.

The basic form of the diminutive suffix in Afrikaans is **-ie**, the form of all variants being determined by the preceding consonant or vowel, the length of the vowel, the accent, etc., in short, by sound laws. Final consonants of the stem forms may be doubled and vowels written double in closed syllables may be written single in open syllables in accordance with the rules of spelling.

(a) **-ie** after the voiceless stops **k** and **p** and after the voiceless fricatives **f**, **g** and **s** :

-k : **boek**, book, **boekie** ; **hek**, gate, **hekkie** ; **week**, week, **wekie** ;

-p : **koop**, purchase, **kopie**, bargain ; **kop**, cup, head, **koppie** ;

-f : **brief**, letter, **briefie** ; **hoof**, head, **hofie** ; **neef**, nephew, **nefie** ;

-g : boog, bow, bogie ; oog, eye, ogie ; vraag, question, vragie ; vrag, load, vraggie ;

-s : huis, house, huisie ; neus, nose, neusie ; nes, nest, nessie ; sus, sister, sussie.

Note that in dissyllabic words ending in **-ng** the **-ng** is changed to **-nk** before the diminutive suffix **-ie**, e.g.

kon^{ing}, king, kon^{ink}ie ; won^{ing}, residence, won^{ink}ie.

- (b) **-pie** after **-m** preceded by a long vowel or diphthong (ie counting as a long vowel) or after **-m** preceded by a short vowel + **l** or **r**, e.g. :

long vowel + **-m** : boom, tree, boomp^{ie} ; oom, uncle, oomp^{ie} (variant om^{ie}) ;

ie + **-m** : riem, thong, riemp^{ie} ;

diphthong + **-m** : duim, thumb, duimp^{ie} ; pruim, quid, prui^{mp}ie ;

short vowel + **l** + **-m** : halm, blade (of grass), halmp^{ie} ;

short vowel + **r** + **-m** : arm, arm, armp^{ie}.

- (c) **-jie** after the voiceless final stops **d** and **t**, e.g. :

bed, bed, bed^{jie} ; hand, hand, hand^{jie} ; kind, child, kind^{jie} (plural : kindert^{jies}) ; net, net, net^{jie} ; pet, cap, pet^{jie} ; naat, seam, naat^{jie} ; poot, foot (of animal), poot^{jie}.

Note that a short stem vowel is sometimes lengthened in the diminutive form, e.g. :

blad, leaf (of paper), blaad^{jie} ; gat, hole, gaat^{jie} ; pad, road, paad^{jie}.

- (d) **-tjie** after a diphthong or **l**, **n** or **r** preceded by a long vowel or diphthong, e.g. :

diphthong : baai, bay, baait^{jie} ; tou, string, tout^{jie} ; vlooi, flea, vlooit^{jie} ;

long vowel + **l**, **n** or **r** : paal, pole, paalt^{jie} ; boon, bean, boont^{jie} ; muur, wall, muurt^{jie} ;

diphthong + **l**, **n** or **r** : suil, pillar, suilt^{jie} ; tuin, garden, tuint^{jie}.

Vowels before **r** are long whilst **ie** and **oe** count as long, hence :

boer, farmer, boert^{jie} ; broer, brother, broert^{jie} ; deur, door, deurt^{jie} ; siel, soul, sielt^{jie} ; stoel, chair, stoelt^{jie}.

In the case of words ending in **i**, **o** or **u** and strongly stressed **a**, the diminutive suffix is written with an apostrophe in order to avoid mispronunciation, hence :

okapi, okapi, okapi'^{tjie} ; plato, plateau, plato'^{tjie} ; menu, menu, menu'^{tjie} ; ma, mother, ma'^{tjie} ; karba (final stress), carboy, karba'^{tjie}.

The rule of **-tjie** is also valid for words of two or more syllables with weakly stressed final syllables in **-l**, **-n** or **-r**, e.g. :

appel, apple, appelt^{jie} ; tafel, table, tafelt^{jie} ; baken, beacon, bakt^{jie} ; teken, sign, token, tekent^{jie} ; beker, beaker, bekert^{jie} ; trekker, tractor, trekkert^{jie}.

Finally, the rule is valid for certain diminutives that are no longer felt as such and accordingly add on a second diminutive suffix (viz. **-tjie**), e.g. :

boord^{jie}, collar, boord^{jietjie} ; mand^{jie}, basket, mand^{jietjie} ; meis^{jie}, girl, meis^{jietjie} ; pink^{jie}, little finger, pink^{jietjie} ; vaat^{jie}, barrel, vat, vaat^{jietjie}, etc.

- (e) **-etjie** with monosyllabic nouns ending in **-l**, **-m**, **-n**, **-ng** or **-r** preceded by a short vowel and with trisyllabic nouns with a weakly stressed final syllable in **-ng**, e.g. :

bal, ball, ballet^{jie} ; kam, comb, kammet^{jie} ; man, man, mannet^{jie} ; ring, ring, ringet^{jie} ; kar, cart, karret^{jie} ; swerweling, wanderer, swerwelinget^{jie}, etc.

83. Adjectives.

As in the case of nouns, only some of the most characteristic affixes used for forming derivative adjectives will be illustrated.

- (i) Prefixes.

- (a) **be-** forms adjectives (from nouns) expressing concepts such as "supplied with", "having the nature of", etc., e.g. :

bebaard, bearded ; bebos, afforested ; beduiweld, possessed by the devil, etc.

- (b) **ge-** has functions like those of **be-** and serves to express similar meanings, e.g. :

geaar, veined ; geaard, natured ; gebaan, beaten (track) etc.

- (c) **her-** forms adjectives (from verbal forms, some of them Past Participles) expressing "repetition", e.g. :

herbore, reborn ; herkose, re-elected ; hervorm(d), reformed, etc.

- (d) **on-** (English *un-*) forms adjectives (from adjectives) expressing the absence of a quality, e.g. :

onaangenaam, unpleasant ; onaanloklik, unattractive ; onaantasbaar, unassailable, etc.

- (e) **ont-** forms adjectives (from nouns and adjectives) expressing "arising from", "deprived of", "exposed", etc., e.g. :

ontaard, degenerate ; ontbloot, exposed, uncovered ; ontvreemd, alienated, estranged, etc.

- (f) **ver-** forms adjectives (from nouns, adjectives and verbs) often expressing something unfavourable, e.g. :
verarm(d), impoverished ; **verbode**, forbidden ; **verkalk**, calcified, etc.
- (g) **wan-** forms adjectives (from nouns) expressing a lack or deformation, e.g. :
wanhopig, desperate ; **wanordelik**, disorderly ; **wanskape**, deformed ; **wanstaltig**, misshapen, etc.
- (ii) Suffixes.
- (a) **-agtig** forms adjectives from nouns and adjectives to express resemblance, e.g. :
doringagtig, thorny ; **geelagtig**, yellowish ; **klipagtig**, stony, etc.
- (b) **-baar** (corresponding to English *-able*) forms adjectives from verbs, e.g. :
draagbaar, portable ; **eetbaar**, eatable ; **leesbaar**, readable, legible, etc.
- (c) **-erig**, a very prolific suffix in Afrikaans, forming adjectives from nouns, adjectives and verbs and expressing the presence of a quality from a high to a low degree, e.g. :
bulterig, hilly (with many scattered hillocks) ; **huilerig**, inclined to cry too much (of babies) ; **siekerig**, not ill but only "seedy", etc.
- (d) **-ies** (corresponding to English *-ic(al)*), a suffix of foreign origin, on the analogy of more or less international words, such as **elektries**, electric(al), **histories**, historic(al) and **organies**, organic, transferred to words such as **wetties**, legalistic, adhering too strictly to the letter of the law, etc.
- (e) **-ig** forms adjectives (from nouns) expressing "having", "characterized by", etc., e.g. :
driftig, hot-tempered ; **magtig**, powerful ; **ywerig**, industrious, etc.
- (f) **-lik** (with variant **-elik** in accordance with sound laws) is a suffix common to adjectives and adverbs and basically implies "likeness to", e.g. :
bekoorlik, charming ; **moeilik**, difficult ; **sieklik**, sickly ; **vriendelik**, friendly, etc. (Eng. *-ly*).
- (g) **-loos** (with variant **-eloos**, see **-lik**, and equivalent to English *-less*) forms adjectives (mostly from nouns) and expresses a lack of something, e.g. :
agteloos (variant **agte(r)losig**), careless ; **doelloos**, aimless ; **magtelooos**, powerless, etc.

- (h) **-s** forms adjectives from proper and common names and from verbs, e.g. :

Afrikaans, Afrikaans ; **Engels**, English ; **Nederlands**, Dutch ; **aards**, earthly ; **kinds**, childlike ; **hemels**, heavenly ; **speels**, playful, etc.

- (i) **-saam** forms adjectives from verbs to express "having a tendency to", etc., e.g. :

buigsaam, pliable ; **gehoorsaam**, obedient, law-abiding ; **werksaam**, active, diligent, etc.

84. Adverbs.

See §53.

Afrikaans, like Dutch, also forms adverbs with diminutive suffixes according to the rules applicable to nouns, but with a final **-s**,

Examples :

- ie + s**, from **sag**, soft—**saggies**, softly, gently ;
- pie + s**, from **kalm**, calm—**kalmpies**, calmly ;
- jie + s**, from **soet**, sweet—**soetjies**, quietly (variant **suutjies**) ;
- tjie + s**, from **lekker**, nice—**lekkertjies**, nicely ;
- etjie + s**, from **stil**, quiet—**stilletjies**, quietly, stealthily.

85. Verbs.

As Afrikaans verbs have no finite forms and the Infinitives are stems without any flexional apparatus (see §§27 and 28), Afrikaans, like English, can form verbs from practically all parts of speech by utilizing the technical "machinery" of agglutination, compounding, derivation, etc.

CHAPTER 12

THE DIVISION OF WORDS INTO SYLLABLES

86. Writing, typing and printing call for a division of words into syllables. While generally adhering to the system applied in Dutch, Afrikaans departs from it in certain details and applies a method entirely different from that established in English usage. There are inconsistencies in the Afrikaans system, but these are unavoidable inasmuch as the division in Afrikaans is determined by orthography, pronunciation, the structure of words and tradition, and these are naturally sometimes at variance with one another. The following rules are applied :

- (a) If there is one medial consonant, the division is made before it : **be-ker** (beaker) ; **gie-ter** (watering-can) ; **hui-sie** (cottage) ; **ko-ning** (king) ; **pa-leis** (palace) ; **ska-vot** (scaffold) ; **woe-ker** (to practise usury) ; **boe-rin** (farmer's wife) (see further §(i) (i) below).
- (b) If there are two medial consonants, the division is made between them : **pas-tei** (pie) ; **sin-jaal** (signal) ; **bak-ker** (baker) ; **skot-tel** (dish). (Note that a consonant written double, as in **bakker** and **skottel**, represents only one consonantal sound).
- (c) The **dj** and the **tj** of diminutives (e.g. in **bedjie** and **petjie**) represent only one consonant, but they may be treated differently :
 - (i) When the word from which the diminutive is formed ends in a vowel or diphthong, the initial consonants of the diminutive ending are not split : **pad-da-tjie** (little frog) ; **see-tjie** (little sea) ; **ba-lie-tjie** (little tub) ; **laai-tjie** (little drawer (of chest)) ; **mou-tjie** (little sleeve). This rule naturally also applies to diminutives with the suffix **-etjie** : **rol-le-tjie** (little roll) ; **wal-le-tjie** (little wall), etc.
 - (ii) In other cases, however, the initial consonants of the diminutive ending are split : **bad-jie** (little bath) ; **bed-jie** (little bed) ; **pet-jie** (little cap) ; **net-jie** (little net) ; **pot-jie** (little pot) ; **poot-jie** (little foot) ; **hand-jie** (little hand) ; **kind-jie** (little child), etc.
- (d) The combination **sj** represents a single consonant after a weakly stressed syllable and is not split but joined as a unit to the next syllable : **bro-sju-re** (brochure) ; **de-ta-sje-ment** (detachment) ; **ma-sjien** (machine), etc.
- (e) The combination **ng** sometimes represents a single consonant, as in **angel** and **engel**, sometimes two consonants, as in **ingenieur**

and **ingewande**. The combination is, however, split in both cases : **an-gel** (barb) ; **en-gel** (angel) ; **in-ge-ni-eur** (engineer) ; **in-ge-wan-de** (viscera), etc.

- (f) If the second of two consecutive consonants is **l** or **r** and the preceding vowel does not get the main stress, the consonants in question are not split but joined as a unit to the next syllable : **ba-klei** (to fight) ; **ka-driel** (quadrille) ; **ma-tro-ne** (matron) ; **neu-traal** (neutral) ; **sa-kra-ment** (sacrament), etc.
- (g) In the case of more than two consecutive consonants :
 - (i) the division is usually between the first and the remaining consonants : **eer-ste** (first) ; **ek-skuus** (excuse) ; **kun-stig** (artful) ; **mon-ster** (monster), etc.
 - (ii) the combination **str** after a weakly stressed syllable is not split but joined as a unit to the next syllable : **ma-gi-straat** (magistrate) ; **re-gi-streer** (register), etc.
 - (iii) pronunciation has to decide the issue in many cases : **fond-se** (funds) ; **punk-tu-a-sie** (punctuation), etc.
- (h) (i) In the case of affixes, the division is generally between the prefix or the suffix and the word to which they are attached : **af-staan** (to cede) ; **in-stap** (to step in) ; **grys-aard** (greybeard) ; **huur-ling** (hireling) ; **wens-lik** (desirable), etc.
- (ii) If the suffix begins with a vowel, the division is usually not before the suffix but before the preceding consonant of the word to which the suffix is attached : **boe-rin** (farmer's wife) ; **sla-vin** (slave-woman) ; **he-me-ling** (celestial being) ; **roe-ping** (calling) ; **vie-ring** (celebration) ; **wal-ging** (loathing) ; **le-se-res** (female reader) ; **on-der-wy-se-res** (schoolmistress), etc.
- (i) (i) In the case of obvious compounds and derivatives, the division is generally between the components thus compounded or derived : **daar-om** (therefore) ; **hier-in** (herein) ; **skuins-te** (slope) ; **wins-te** (profits) as against **skuins-ste** (superlative of **skuins**, sloping), etc.
- (ii) When the components of a compound have become unrecognizable and the compounds in question are no longer felt to be compounds, the division follows rule (a) above : **o-ral** (everywhere) ; **o-rent** (upright), etc.
- (j) In the case of a sequence of vowels and diphthongs, the division is between vowels or between diphthongs and vowels (the diaeresis indicating in the spelling, where necessary, the point of division) : **dra-er** (carrier) ; **leu-en** (lie) ; **bou-er** (builder) ; **rei-er** (heron)—**re-ël** (rule) ; **vo-ël** (bird) ; **koe-ël** (bullet) (all written without hyphen).

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SOME STRONG AND WEAK FORMS

By levelling the vowel mutations in the paradigms of strong verbs and discarding the flexional apparatus of weak verbs, Afrikaans has, in comparison with Dutch and English, radically simplified the entire pattern of the verb system. It has, however, preserved some relics of strong verbs, particularly Past Participles used as adjectives. Analogy has been responsible for the creation of parallel forms that may be called weak inasmuch as their stem vowels remain unchanged. In Column I we have a short alphabetical list of some Afrikaans verbs that have preserved strong forms. Column II contains forms that are in general new, regular and weak, whilst Column III gives old strong forms. Explanatory words and translations in English are given in every column. The strong forms are in many cases paronyms, i.e., words derived from the same stems as the verbs in Column I.

I	II	III
bederf, to go bad, to spoil	bederfde vleis, meat gone bad	bedorwe kinders, spoiled children
berg, to salvage	gebergde goedere, salvaged goods	verborge eienskappe, latent qualities
bind, to bind	gebinde gerwe, tied sheaves	gebonde styl, poetic style
breek, to break	gebreekte klip, crushed stone	'n gebroke hart, a broken heart
buig, to bend	'n gebuigde stok, a bent stick	met geboë hoof, with bowed head
drink, to drink	verdrinkte matrose, drowned sailors	verdronke grond, submerged land
klink, to clinch, to rivet	geklinkte naels, riveted bolts	'n beklonke saak, a clinched affair
krimp, to shrink	gekrimpte sokkies, shrunk socks	'n bekrompe houding, a narrow-minded attitude
ry, to ride	ongeryde perde, horses not broken in yet	berede polisie, mounted police
sink, to sink	gesinkte skepe, sunken ships	in gedagte versionke, lost in thought

I	II	III
skend, to disfigure	'n geskende gesig, a disfigured face	geskonde eer, violated honour
skep, to scoop up, to create	geskepte water, scooped-up water	geskape wesens, created beings
skiet, to shoot	geskiete fisante, shot pheasants	'n deurskote eksemplaar, an interleaved copy
skink, to pour	geskinkte tee, tea poured out	'n beskonke man, an intoxicated man
sluit, to lock	'n gesluite huis, a locked house	'n geslote boek, a sealed book
slyp, to sharpen	geslypte diamante, cut diamonds	'n geslepe skelm, a cunning knave
soek, to seek, to look for	gesoekte vlugtelingen, sought fugitives	'n vergesogte argument, a far-fetched argument
splyt, to split	gesplyte pale, split poles	'n gesplete verhemelte, a cleft palate
steek, to sting	gesteekte vrugte, stung fruit	'n deurgestoke kaart, a pre-arranged affair
stryk, to iron, to stride	gestrykte boordjies, ironed collars	die tyd is verstreke, time is up
sweer, to fester, to swear	versweerde voete, festered feet	geswore vyande, sworn enemies
swel, to swell	geswelde vingers, swollen fingers	'n geswolle styl, a stilted style
trek, to draw, to pull	getrekte tande, drawn teeth	deurtrokke van olie, soaked with oil
weeg, to weigh	geweegde goedere, weighed goods	'n oorwoë mening, a considered opinion
werf, to recruit	gewerfde soldate, recruited soldiers	verworwe eienskappe, acquired characteristics

N.B.—There are numerous other strong forms without as yet new weak forms to match them, the weak ones having developed in comparatively recent times. The following are a few examples of strong forms, with their meanings added and the original verbs put in brackets: **onbegrepe** (*begryp*), not understood; **vir waarde/genote** (*geniet*), /for value/received; **gegote** (*giet*), cast (iron); **onbeholpe** (*help*), clumsy; **uitverkore** (*kies*), chosen; **aangenome** (*neem*), assuming (that); **gesproke** (*sprek*), spoken (word), etc.

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